

Oncología personalizada de precisión: situación actual y perspectivas de futuro

Personalized Precision Oncology: current status and future perspectives

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BIO

Pier Paolo Pandolfi

MD, PhD, is Director of the Cancer Center and Cancer Research Institute at BIDMC.

Prof. Pandolfi is Director of the Cancer Center and the Cancer Research Institute at Beth Israel Deaconess Medical Center and George C. Reisman Professor of Medicine at Harvard Medical School. Previously, he was a faculty member at Memorial Sloan-Kettering Cancer Center and professor of at the Weill Graduate School of Medical Sciences at Cornell University. He is a recipient of the Weizmann Institute Lombroso Prize for Cancer Research and the Pezcoller-AACR International Award for cancer research. A citizen of both Italy and the United States, he was "knighted" by the Republic of Italy.

Education and Background

Pier Paolo Pandolfi received his M.D. in 1989 and his Ph.D. in 1995 from the University of Perugia, Italy, after having studied Philosophy at the University of Rome, Italy. He received post-graduate training at the National Institute for Medical Research and the University of London in the UK. He became an Assistant Member of the Molecular Biology Program and the Department of Human Genetics at Memorial-Sloan-Kettering Cancer Center in 1994. Dr. Pandolfi grew through the ranks to become a Member in the Cancer Biology and Genetics Program at the Sloan Kettering Institute; Professor of Molecular Biology and Human Genetics at the Weill Graduate School of Medical Sciences at Cornell University; Professor, Molecular Biology in Pathology and Laboratory Medicine, Weill Medical College at Cornell University; and Head of the Molecular and Developmental Biology Laboratories at MSKCC. Dr. Pandolfi was also the incumbent of the Albert C. Foster Endowed Chair for Cancer Research at Memorial Sloan-Kettering Cancer Center.

Dr. Pandolfi currently holds the Aresty Endowed Chair of Medicine, and is Professor of Medicine and Pathology at Harvard Medical School (HMS). He joined the HMS faculty at Beth Israel Deaconess Medical Center (BIDMC) in 2007 to serve as Scientific Director of the Cancer Center, the Director of the Cancer Genetics Program, and the Chief of the Division of Genetics in the Department of Medicine; he is also a Member of the Department of Pathology at BIDMC. In 2013, he was appointed to serve as the Cancer Center Director and the Director of the Cancer Research Institute at BIDMC and HMS.

Research Overview

The research carried out in Dr. Pandolfi's laboratory has been seminal to elucidating the molecular mechanisms and the genetics underlying the pathogenesis of leukemias and solid tumors, as well as in modeling these cancers in the mouse. Dr. Pandolfi and his team have characterized the function of the fusion oncoproteins and the genes involved in the chromosomal translocations of acute promyelocytic leukemia (APL), as well as of major tumor suppressors such as PTEN, PML and p53, and novel cancer

genes such as POKEMON and INPP4B. The elucidation of the molecular basis underlying the pathogenesis of APL has led to the development of novel and effective therapeutic strategies. As a result of these efforts, APL is now considered a curable disease. Additional novel therapeutic concepts have emerged from this work and are currently being tested in clinical trials. More recently, Dr. Pandolfi and colleagues have presented a new theory describing how RNAs, both protein coding and non-coding, exert their biological functions with profound implications for human genetics, cell biology and cancer biology.