europass

Federica Zonca

ABOUT ME

As an early-career researcher, my primary objective is to develop the skills and expertise necessary to bridge basic research and clinical application. I am particularly interested in translational oncology, with a focus on immunotherapeutic strategies, such as the development of novel CAR-T cell therapies for solid tumors. My goal is to contribute to the advancement of clinically meaningful innovations by integrating laboratory research with patient- centered care.
In addition to my academic and clinical interests, I bring a strong personal commitment to excellence and integrity. I am a reliable and goal-oriented individual, capable of maintaining focus on long-term objectives while adapting flexibly to evolving challenges. I value collaboration and thrive in team-based environments, consistently adhering to guidance and aligning my efforts with shared goals and institutional directions.

WORK EXPERIENCE

– MILAN, ITALY

TEMPORARY APPOINTMENT AS GENERAL PRACTITIONER (GP) – 01/05/2025 – CURRENT

IRCCS ISTITUTO NAZIONALE DEI TUMORI MILANO – MILANO, ITALY

RESEARCH ASSISTANT – 11/2023 – 11/2024

Implementation of a translational research program of adoptive cell therapy with the aim to develop and manufacture novel CAR-T cells for the treatment of solid tumors.

- Cell culture in adhesion and in suspension
- Transformation of competent cells
- Transfection of packaging cell lines with retroviral constructs
- Activation of PBMCs and transduction of lymphocytes through retroviral supernatants and lentiviral particles
- Co-culture assays for the evaluation of CAR-T cells functionality -e.g. XCELLigence, CellTiterGlo, use of luciferase-labeled cell lines
- Cell sorting
- Multiparametric flow cytometry analysis and analysis of the data with FlowJo
- Other techniques: Western Blot, RNA extraction and retrotranscription, qPCR.
- Use of GraphPad Prism for statistical analysis and graphics.

IRCCS ISTITUTO NAZIONALE DEI TUMORI DI MILANO – MILANO, ITALY

THESIS INTERNSHIP – 11/2022 – 07/2023

Manufacture and preliminary studies of CAR-T cells targeting a globo-series glycosphingolipid antigen expressed on the outer membrane of cancer cells.
Thesis title "Adoptive cell therapy in solid tumors: development of novel anti-tumor CAR-T cells".

PRINSES MAXIMA CENTRUM – UTRECHT, NETHERLANDS

RESEARCH FELLOWSHIP – 11/2021 – 06/2025

Literature revision about the late effects of radiotherapy in survivors treated for Wilms tumor and neuroblastoma on behalf of SIOPEN and SIOP-RTSG.

UNIVERSITÀ DEGLI STUDI DI MILANO – MILANO, ITALY

ACADEMIC AND ORGANIZATIONAL RESPONSIBILITIES – 09/2020 – 07/2023

- Liaised with faculty members, administrative staff, and department heads to coordinate academic and logistical matters
- Organized internship schedules for all students within the program
- Participated in institutional and departmental meetings

DEPARTMENT OF RADIOLOGY, POLICLINICO SAN DONATO – MILANO, ITALY

RESEARCH ASSISTANT – 12/2020 – 03/2021

Contributed to the development of a diagnostic algorithm by reviewing a radiological database of breast biopsy reports, applying principles of machine learning.

EDUCATION AND TRAINING

10/2017 – 07/2023 Milano, Italy

MASTER'S DEGREE IN MEDICINE AND SURGERY Università degli Studi di Milano

06/2024 – 06/2024

UNIMIFLOW Flow Cytometry Academy of Università degli Studi di Milano

04/2024 – 06/2024 Milan, Italy

USE OF ANTIBODIES IN CANCER RESEARCH AND TREATMENT IRCCS Istituto Nazionale dei Tumori

11/2023 – 11/2023 Milan, Italy

SAFETY USE OF LIQUID NITROGEN IRCCS Istituto Nazionale dei Tumori

2023 Milano, Italy

ALS AREU

2018 Milano, Italy

BLS-D AREU

LANGUAGE SKILLS

Mother tongue(s): **ITALIAN**

Other language(s):

	UNDERSTANDING		SPEAKING		WRITING
	Listening	Reading	Spoken production	Spoken interaction	
ENGLISH	C2	C2	C1	C1	C1

Levels: A1 and A2: Basic user; B1 and B2: Independent user; C1 and C2: Proficient user

PUBLICATIONS

2025

Late toxicity after upper abdominal radiotherapy in pediatric Wilms tumor and neuroblastoma survivors. A systematic review on behalf of SIOPEN and SIOP-RTSG.

F. Wens, F. Zonca et al.

Journal Name: Radiotherapy and Oncology

2023

Reversing Triple Negative Breast Cancer (TNBC) Stem Cells by Disrupting the Notch signaling Pathway via BCL6 Targeting

F. De Santis, F. Putti, C. Portulano, G. Bravin, F. Zonca, L. Castagnoli, M. Magni, F. De Braud, S.M. Pupa, M. Di Nicola

Journal Name: AACR Boston 2023

RECOMMENDATIONS

Francesca De Santis Supervisor

Post doc researcher, Unit of Immunotherapy and Anticancer Innovative Therapeutics, Department of Medical Oncology and Hematology Fondazione, IRCCS Istituto Nazionale Dei Tumori, Milan, Italy

Email francesca.desantis@istitutotumori.mi.it

Marry van den Heuvel-Eibrink Supervisor

Project leader at Prinses Maxima Centrum

Email m.m.vandenheuvel-eibrink@prinsesmaximacentrum.nl