

CURRICULUM VITAE

PROF. ZAZZERONI FRANCESCA

PERSONAL INFORMATION

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Nationality Italian
Sex Female
Marital Status Married, mother of one son and one daughter

WORK EXPERIENCE

- **Full Professor**, SSD MED/46, Dept. of Biotechnological and Applied Clinical Sciences, University of L'Aquila, L'Aquila, Italy (March 2018 – Present).
- **Deputy Head** of the Dept. of Biotechnological and Applied Clinical Sciences, University of L'Aquila, L'Aquila, Italy (June 2018 – Present).
- **Associate Professor**, SSD MED/46, Dept. of Biotechnological and Applied Clinical Sciences, University of L'Aquila, L'Aquila, Italy (May 2015 – February 2018).
- **Researcher**, SSD MED/46, Dept. of Biotechnological and Applied Clinical Sciences, University of L'Aquila, L'Aquila, Italy (January 2004 – May 2015).
- **Research Associate**, Ben May Institute for Cancer Research, University of Chicago, Chicago, IL, USA (1999 – 2003).

EDUCATION AND TRAINING

- **Ph.D. Degree in Experimental Medicine** (March 9th, 1999). Experimental thesis: "EGF regulates a complex pattern of gene expression during the neurotypic conversion of thymic TC-1S cells" (Supervisor Prof. A. Gulino).
- **Degree in Biological Sciences**, summa cum laude (February 23rd, 1994). Experimental thesis: "p53 Expression in Prostate Carcinoma" (Supervisor Prof. M. Bologna).

INSTITUTIONAL RESPONSIBILITIES

- Member of the **National Scientific Qualification Committee**, SC 06/N1 (2018 – 2020).
- Member of the **Internal Review Board** of L'Aquila University (2013 – Present).
- Member of the L'Aquila University **OPBA** (2018 – Present).
- Member of the **Academic Senate** (2017-18).
- Member of the **University Teaching Commission** (2017 – Present).

AWARDS

- **Fellowship** “Leonino Fontana e Maria Lionello” for Cancer Research, Fondazione Italiana per la Ricerca sul Cancro (**FIRC**) (1999).
- **Award ONLUS-AICC** 2008 Senior "Cell cultures in biomedical research" (2008).

ROLES IN ASSOCIATIONS AND SCIENTIFIC JOURNALS

- **Board of Director** of the Italian Association of Cell Culture (AICC) (2011-2017).
- **Treasure** of the Italian Association of Cell Cultures (AICC) (2018-2022).
- **Review Editor** of the Nanobiotechnology section of *Frontiers in Bioengineering and Biotechnology*.
- **Review Editor** of Cancer Metabolism section of *Frontiers in Oncology*.
- **Member of the S.I.R.T.E.P.S** (Società Italiana Ricerca Traslationale e Professioni Sanitarie).

ORGANISATION OF SCIENTIFIC CONGRESSES

- 21-23/11/2011: 24° Annual Conference of Italian Association of Cell Culture “*Struttura, Modificazioni Epigenetiche e Meccanismi di Riparo del DNA come Bersaglio per Terapie Innovative Antitumorali*”, Istituto Regina Elena, Roma
- 21-23/11/2012: 25° Annual Conference of Italian Association of Cell Culture “*Controllo dei processi di proliferazione e morte cellulare: nuovi sviluppi della ricerca oncologica preclinica*”, Università degli Studi di Palermo
- 29/10/2013: 1° Workshop “*New High Throughput Technologies in Molecular Diagnostics*”, Università degli Studi di L’Aquila
- 20-22/11/2013: 26° Annual Conference of Italian Association of Cell Culture “*Progressi e Prospettive delle Terapie Cellulari*”, Brescia
- 12-14 NOVEMBRE 2014: 27th Annual Conference of Italian Association of Cell Culture “*Oxidative Stress and Cell Death: Implications in Chronic-Degenerative Processes and Cancer*”, Università degli Studi di Verona
- 30 Settembre – 2 October 2015: “*Training course on the use of animals for scientific and educational purposes*”, IZSAM “G. Caporale” Teramo
- 16-17/11/2015: 28th Annual Conference of Italian Association of Cell Culture “*Approaching the new era of molecular medicine: from target based agents to nucleic acids in the treatment of tumours and neurodegenerative diseases*”, Seconda Università di Napoli
- 8-9/06/2016: AICC Meeting “*Exosomes in pathological conditions: new insights for biomarker development and therapeutic applications*”, ISS, Roma
- 21-28/10/2016: I Edition “*Training course on the use of animals for scientific and educational purposes*”, IZSAM “G. Caporale” Teramo
- 23-25/11/2016: 29th Annual Conference of Italian Association of Cell Culture “*Crossroads in Cellular and Molecular Biotechnologies – Novel Diagnostic and Therapeutic Strategies for Cancer, Immunological Disorders and Rare Diseases*”, Università degli Studi di L’Aquila
- 28 November – 7 December 2016: II Edition “*Training course on the use of animals for scientific and educational purposes*”, IZSAM “G. Caporale” Teramo
- 8-9/06/2017: AICC Meeting “*The Future of Cancer Therapy. The Genome Editing Era*”, Università della Magna Graecia, Catanzaro
- 27-28/11/2017: 30th Annual Conference of Italian Association of Cell Culture “*Tumor-immune cell interface in solid and hematological malignancies: reprogramming the immune microenvironment toward better outcome and response to therapy*”, Istituto Tumori, Milano
- 28 November – 7 December 2017: “*Training course on the use of animals for scientific and educational purposes*”, IZSAM “G. Caporale” Teramo
- 8/03/2018: AICC Workshop on “*Organoids cultures*”, Università di Verona, Verona

- 27-28/11/2018: 31th Annual Conference of Italian Association of Cell Culture “*Cell Communication and Signalling: how to turn bad language into positive one*” Istituto Ortopedico Rizzoli, Bologna

PATENTS

- Inventors: G. Franzoso, S. Papa, C. Bubici, F. Zazzeroni. "Identification of Novel Factors that Block Programmed Cell Death or Apoptosis by Targeting JNK". Patent number: US 7,354,898. Application number: 11/032,794. Filing date: January 10th, 2005. Issued date: April 8th, 2008
- Inventors: G. Franzoso, E. De Smaele, F. Zazzeroni, S. Papa. "Methods and Compositions for Modulating Apoptosis". Publication number: WO2003028659 A3. Filing date: October 2nd, 2002. Publication date: May 27th, 2004

GRANTS

- 2004-2006: **AIRC Grant** “Roles of Gadd45beta and the JNK pathway in NF-κB-dependent oncogenesis”. Principal Investigator
- 2004-2005: **Grant from Fondazione Italiana per la Ricerca sulla Fibrosi Cistica**, “Inflammation and Apoptosis in Cystic Fibrosis Airway Epythelium: Role of NF-κB and its target genes”. Principal Investigator
- 2007-2009: **AIRC Grant AIRC**, “Inflammation and cancer: crosstalk between NF-κB and Sonic-Hedgehog pathways”. Principal Investigator
- 2011-2013: **MIUR PRIN Grant**, “Cross-Talk between NF-κB transcription factor and SONIC-Hedgehog pathway in hepatocellular carcinoma: therapeutic potential of hedgehog inhibitors. Unit Principal Investigator
- 2011-2017: **MIUR FIRB Grant**, “microRNAs: from mechanisms to diagnostic and therapeutic applications”. Unit Component
- 2018-2019 **POR FESR Abruzzo 2014-2020**, Life Science, “Creation of an innovative ultrasound technology platform for pre-clinical testing of new approaches based on molecular bio-markers in oncology.” Principal Investigator
- 2018-2021: **MIUR PRIN Grant**, “2011-2013: **MIUR PRIN Grant**, “Interfering with NF-kappaB activation in human cancer.” National Principal Investigator

PUBLICATIONS

- 1) Bologna M, Vicentini C, Muzi P, Festuccia C, **Zazzeroni F**, di Pasquale B, Valenti M, Corrao G. Improved tissue culture method for the study of prostatic carcinoma: a significant diagnostic tool. **Pathol Res Pract** 1995. 191:899-903.
- 2) Festuccia C, Vincentini C, di Pasquale AB, Aceto G, **Zazzeroni F**, Miano L, Bologna M. Plasminogen activator activities in short-term tissue cultures of benign prostatic hyperplasia and prostatic carcinoma. **Oncol Res** 1995. 7:131-138.
- 3) Cifone MG, Alesse E, Di Marzio L, Ruggieri B, **Zazzeroni F**, Famularo G, Steinberg SM, Vullo E, De Simone C. Effect of L-carnitine treatment in vivo on apoptosis and ceramide generation in peripheral blood lymphocytes from AIDS patients. **Proc. Am. Phys. Ass.** 1997. 109: 146-153.
- 4) Giannini G, Di Marcotullio L, **Zazzeroni F**, Alesse E, Zani M, T'Ang A, Sorrentino V, Screpanti I, Frati L, Gulino A. 2-Aminopurine unravels a role for pRB in the regulation of gene expression by

- transforming growth factor beta. **J Biol Chem** 1997. 272:5313-5319.
- 5) Alesse E, **Zazzeroni F**, Angelucci A, Giannini G, Di Marcotullio L, Gulino A. The growth arrest and downregulation of c-myc transcription induced by ceramide are related events dependent on p21 induction, Rb underphosphorylation and E2F sequestering. **Cell Death and Differentiation** 1998. 5:381-389.
 - 6) Moretti S, Alesse E, Di Marzio L, **Zazzeroni F**, Ruggieri B, Marcellini S, Famularo G, Steinberg SM, Boschini A, Cifone MG, De Simone C. Effect of L-Carnitine on human immunodeficiency virus-1 infection-associated apoptosis: a pilot study. **Blood** 1998. 91:3817-24.
 - 7) Di Marzio L, Moretti S, D'Alo' S, **Zazzeroni F**, Marcellini S, Smacchia C, Alesse E, Cifone MG, De Simone C. Acetyl-L-carnitine administration increases insulin-like growth factor 1 levels in asymptomatic HIV-1-infected subjects: correlation with its suppressive effect on lymphocyte apoptosis and ceramide generation. **Clin Immunol** 1999. 92:103-10.
 - 8) Moretti S, Alesse E, Marcellini S, Di Marzio L, **Zazzeroni F**, Parroni R, Famularo G, Boschini A, Cifone MG, De Simone C. Combined antiviral therapy reduces HIV-1 plasma load and improves CD4 counts but does not interfere with ongoing lymphocyte apoptosis. **Immunopharmacol Immunotoxicol** 1999. 21: 645-65.
 - 9) Giannini G, Alesse E, Di Marcotullio L, **Zazzeroni F**, Gallo R, Zani M, Frati L, Screpanti I, Gulino A. EGF regulates pattern of gene expression and represses smooth muscle differentiation during the neurotypic conversion of the neural crest-derived TC-1S cell line. **Experimental Cell Research** 2001. 264:353-62.
 - 10) De Smaele E, **Zazzeroni F**, Papa S, Nguyen DU, Jin R, Jones J, Cong R, Franzoso G. Induction of gadd45beta by NF-kappaB downregulates pro-apoptotic JNK signalling. **Nature** 2001. 414:308-13.
 - 11) Jin R, De Smaele E*, **Zazzeroni F***, Nguyen DU, Jones J, Cox C, Gelinis C, Franzoso G. Regulation of the gadd45beta promoter by NF-kappaB. **DNA Cell Biol** 2002. 21:491-503.
 - 12) Gallo R*, **Zazzeroni F***, Alesse E, Mincione C, Borello U, Buanne P, D'Eugenio R, Mackay AR, Argenti B, Gradini R, Maroder M, Cossu G, Frati L, Screpanti I, Gulino A. *REN*, a novel EGF-induced gene, involved in neural cell development. **J Cell Biol** 2002. 158:731-40
 - 13) Giacomelli R, Cipriani P, Matucci Cerinic M, Fulminis A, Barattelli G, Pingiotti E, Di Franco M, Trotta A, Perricone R, **Zazzeroni F**, Alesse E, Tonietti G. Combination therapy with cyclosporine and methotrexate in patients with early rheumatoid arthritis soon inhibits TNFalpha production without decreasing TNFalpha mRNA levels. An in vivo and in vitro study. **Clin Exp Rheumatol** 2002. 20:365-72.
 - 14) Franzoso G, **Zazzeroni F**, Papa S. JNK: a killer on a transcriptional leash. **Cell Death and Diff.** 2003. 10:13-5.
 - 15) **Zazzeroni F**, Papa S, De Smaele E, Franzoso G. Cell survival and a Gadd45-factor deficiency. **Nature** 2003. 424:742.
 - 16) **Zazzeroni F**, Papa S, Algeciras-Schimmich A, Alvarez K, Melis T, Bubici C, Majewski N, Hay N, De Smaele E, Peter ME, Franzoso G. Gadd45b mediates the protective effects of CD40 costimulation against Fas-induced apoptosis. **Blood** 2003. 102:3270-79.
 - 17) Liu N, Raja SM, **Zazzeroni F**, Metkar SS, Shah R, Zhang M, Wang Y, Bromme D, Russin WA, Lee JC, Peter ME, Froelich CJ, Franzoso G, Ashton-Rickardt PG. NF-kappaB protects from the lysosomal pathway of cell death. **EMBO J.** 2003. 22:5313-22.
 - 18) Papa S, **Zazzeroni F**, Bubici C, Jayawardena S, Alvarez K, Matsuda S, Nguyen DU, Pham CG, Nelsbach AH, Melis T, De Smaele E, Tang WJ, D'Adamo L, Franzoso G. Gadd45 β mediates the NF-kB suppression of JNK signaling by targeting MKK7/JNKK2. **Nat Cell Biol.** 2004. 6:146-153.
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 - 20) Di Marcotullio L, Ferretti E, De Smaele E, Argenti B, Mincione C, **Zazzeroni F**, Gallo R, Masuelli L, Napolitano M, Maroder M, Modesti A, Giangaspero F, Screpanti I, Alesse E, Gulino A. *REN(KCTD11)* is a suppressor of Hedgehog signaling and is deleted in human medulloblastoma. **Proc Natl Acad Sci U S A.** 2004. 101:10833-8.
 - 21) Papa S, **Zazzeroni F**, Pham CG, Bubici C, Franzoso G. Linking JNK signaling to NF-kappaB: a key to survival. **J Cell Sci.** 2004. 117:5197-208.
 - 22) Pham CG, Bubici C, **Zazzeroni F**, Papa S, Jones J, Alvarez K, Jayawardena S, De Smaele E, Cong R, Beaumont C, Torti FM, Torti SV, Franzoso G. Ferritin heavy chain upregulation by NF-kappaB inhibits TNFalpha-induced apoptosis by suppressing reactive oxygen species. **Cell.** 2004.

- 119:529-42.
- 23) Bubici C, Papa S, Pham CG, **Zazzeroni F**, Franzoso G. NF-kappaB and JNK: An Intricate Affair. **Cell Cycle**. 2004 Dec 19;3(12)
 - 24) Pham CG, Papa S, Bubici C, **Zazzeroni F**, Franzoso G. Oxygen JNKies: phosphatases overdose on ROS. **Dev Cell**. 2005 Apr;8(4):452-4.
 - 25) Papa S, Bubici C, Pham CG, **Zazzeroni F**, Franzoso G. NF-kappaB meets ROS: an 'iron-ic' encounter. **Cell Death Differ**. 2005 Oct; 12(10):1259-62.
 - 26) Pham CG, Papa S, Bubici C, **Zazzeroni F**, Franzoso G. In the Crosshairs: NF-kB Targets the JNK Signaling Cascade. **Curr Med Chem Anti Inflamm Anti Allergy Agents**. 2005 Dec 1;4(6):569-576.
 - 27) Bubici C, Papa S, Pham CG, **Zazzeroni F**, Franzoso G. The NF-kB-mediated control of ROS and JNK signaling. **Histol Histopathol**. 2006 Jan; 21(1):69-80.
 - 28) Papa S, Bubici C, **Zazzeroni F**, Pham CG, Kuntzen C, Knabb JR, Dean K, Franzoso G. The NF-kappaB-mediated control of the JNK cascade in the antagonism of programmed cell death in health and disease. **Cell Death Differ**. 2006 May;13(5):712-29.
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 - 30) Kuntzen C, **Zazzeroni F**, Pham CG, Papa S, Bubici C, Knabb JR, Franzoso G. A method for isolating prosurvival targets of NF-kappaB/Rel transcription factors. **Methods In Molecular Biology**, 2007. 399: 99-124.
 - 31) Passacquale G, Desideri G, Croce G, Murgo S, Mancarelli MM, **Zazzeroni F**, Alesse E, Ferri C. Nifedipine improves the migratory ability of circulating endothelial progenitor cells depending on manganese superoxide dismutase upregulation. **J Hypertens**, 2008. 26: 737-746.
 - 32) Papa S*, **Zazzeroni F***, Fu Yx, Bubici C, Alvarez K, Dean K, Christiansen Pa, Anders Ra, Franzoso G. Gadd45beta promotes hepatocyte survival during liver regeneration in mice by modulating JNK signaling. **J Clin Invest**, 2008. 118:1911-1923.
 - 33) Rucci N, Rufo A, Alamanou M, Capulli M, Del Fattore A, Ahrman E, Capece D, Iansante V, **Zazzeroni F**, Alesse E, Heinegård D, Teti A. The glycosaminoglycan-binding domain of PRELP acts as a cell type-specific NF-kappaB inhibitor that impairs osteoclastogenesis. **J Cell Biol**. 2009. 187:669-683.
 - 34) Papa S, Bubici C, **Zazzeroni F**, Franzoso G. Mechanisms of liver disease: cross-talk between the NF-kappaB and JNK pathways. **Biol Chem**, 2009. 390:965-976.
 - 35) Mauro C, **Zazzeroni F**, Papa S, Bubici C, Franzoso G. The NF-kappaB transcription factor pathway as a therapeutic target in cancer: methods for detection of NF-kappaB activity. **Methods Mol Biol**. 2009. 512:169-207.
 - 36) Iansante V, Capece D, Murgo S, Mancarelli MM, **Zazzeroni F**, Alesse E. Biotechnological approaches for the treatment of inflammatory diseases. **Anti-Inflammatory and Anti-Allergy Agents in Medicinal Chemistry**. 2009; 8(1) :51-71
 - 37) Mancarelli MM, **Zazzeroni F**, Ciccocioppo L, Capece D, Po A, Murgo S, Di Camillo R, Rinaldi C, Ferretti E, Gulino A, Alesse E. The tumor suppressor gene KCTD11REN is regulated by Sp1 and methylation and its expression is reduced in tumors. **Mol Cancer**. 2010 Jun 30;9:172.
 - 38) Silvano E, Millan MJ, Mannoury la Cour C, Han Y, Duan L, Griffin SA, Luedtke RR, Aloisi G, Rossi M, **Zazzeroni F**, Javitch JA, Maggio R. The tetrahydroisoquinoline derivative SB269,652 is an allosteric antagonist at dopamine D3 and D2 receptors. **Mol Pharmacol**. 2010 Nov;78(5):925-34.
 - 39) Capece D, Verzella D, Fischietti M, **Zazzeroni F**, Alesse E. Targeting costimulatory molecules to improve antitumor immunity. **J Biomed Biotechnol**. 2012;2012:926321.
 - 40) Capece D, Fischietti M, Verzella D, Gaggiano A, Ciccirelli G, Tessitore A, **Zazzeroni F***, Alesse E*. The inflammatory microenvironment in hepatocellular carcinoma: A pivotal role for tumor-associated macrophages. **BioMed Res Int**. 2013; 2013:187204.
 - 41) Tessitore A, Gaggiano A, Ciccirelli G, Verzella D, Capece D, Fischietti M, **Zazzeroni F**, Alesse E. Serum Biomarkers Identification By Mass Spectrometry In High Mortality Tumors. **Int J Proteomics**. 2013;2013:125858.
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 - 43) Tessitore A, **Zazzeroni F**, Alesse E. Reverse-phase protein microarray highlights HER2 signaling

- activation in immunohistochemistry/FISH/HER2-negative breast cancers. **Expert Rev Proteomics**. 2013;10(3):223-6.
- 44) Capece D*, **Zazzeroni F***, Mancarelli MM, Verzella D, Fischietti M, Di Tommaso A, Plebani S, Di Ianni M, Gulino A, Alesse E. A novel, non-canonical splice variant of Ikaros gene is aberrantly expressed in B-cell lymphoproliferative disorders. **PLoS One**. 2013; 8(7):e68080.
- 45) Tessitore A, Cicciarelli G, Del Vecchio F, Gaggiano A, Verzella D, Fischietti M, Vecchiotti D, Capece D, **Zazzeroni F**, Alesse E. MicroRNAs in the DNA Damage/Repair Network and Cancer. **Int J Genomics**. 2014;2014:820248.
- 46) **Zazzeroni F***, Nicosia D*, Tessitore A, Gallo R, Verzella D, Fischietti M, Vecchiotti D, Ventura L, Capece D, Gulino A, Alesse E. KCTD11 Tumor Suppressor Gene Expression Is Reduced in Prostate Adenocarcinoma. **BioMed Res Int**. 2014; 2014:380398
- 47) Cipriani P, Di Benedetto P, Capece D, **Zazzeroni F**, Liakouli V, Ruscitti P, Pantano I, Berardicurti O, Carubbi F, Alesse E, Giacomelli R. Impaired Cav-1 expression in SSc mesenchymal cells upregulates VEGF signaling: a link between vascular involvement and fibrosis. **Fibrogenesis Tissue Repair**. 2014 Sep 15;7:13.
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- 50) Tessitore A, Cicciarelli G, Mastroiaco V, Vecchio FD, Capece D, Verzella D, Fischietti M, Vecchiotti D, **Zazzeroni F**, Alesse E. Therapeutic Use of MicroRNAs in Cancer. **Anticancer Agents Med Chem**. 2016;16(1):7-19.
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- 52) Cipriani P, Di Benedetto P, Ruscitti P, Verzella D, Fischietti M, **Zazzeroni F**, Liakouli V, Carubbi F, Berardicurti O, Alesse E, Giacomelli R. Macitentan inhibits the transforming growth factor- β profibrotic action, blocking the signaling mediated by the ETR/T β RI complex in systemic sclerosis dermal fibroblasts. **Arthritis Res Ther**. 2015 Sep 10;17:247.
- 53) Del Vecchio F, Gallo F, Di Marco A, Mastroiaco V, Caianiello P, **Zazzeroni F**, Alesse E, Tessitore A. Bioinformatics approach to predict target genes for dysregulated microRNAs in hepatocellular carcinoma: study on a chemically-induced HCC mouse model. **BMC Bioinformatics**. 2015 Dec 10;16:408.
- 54) Tessitore A, Cicciarelli G, Del Vecchio F, Gaggiano A, Verzella D, Fischietti M, Mastroiaco V, Vetusch A, Sferra R, Barnabei R, Capece D, **Zazzeroni F**, Alesse E. MicroRNA expression analysis in high fat diet-induced NAFLD-NASH-HCC progression: study on C57BL/6J mice. **BMC Cancer**. 2016 Jan 5;16:3.
- 55) Cipriani P, Di Benedetto P, Ruscitti P, Liakouli V, Berardicurti O, Carubbi F, Ciccia F, Guggino G, **Zazzeroni F**, Alesse E, Triolo G, Giacomelli R. Perivascular Cells in Diffuse Cutaneous Systemic Sclerosis Overexpress Activated ADAM12 and Are Involved in Myofibroblast Transdifferentiation and Development of Fibrosis. **J Rheumatol**. 2016 Jul;43(7):1340-9.
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- 64) Di Martino MT, **Zazzeroni F**, Donadelli M, Chiodoni C, Caraglia M, Scotlandi K, Meschini S, Leonetti C. Reprogramming Tumor-Immune Cell Interface in Solid and Hematological Malignancies to Enhance Response to Therapy. **J Exp Clin Cancer Res**. 2018 Mar 5;37(1):48. doi: 10.1186/s13046-018-0710-x.
- 65) Chiodoni C, Di Martino MT, **Zazzeroni F**, Caraglia M, Donadelli M, Meschini S, Leonetti C, Scotlandi K. Cell communication and signaling: how to turn bad language into positive one. **J Exp Clin Cancer Res**. 2019 Mar 13;38(1):128.

H index (scopus) 29; H index (Google Scholar) 31; citation number (scopus) 3524; citation number (Google Scholar) 4863

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L'Aquila, 03.04.2019

Prof. Francesca Zazzeroni