



FONDAZIONE
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FIRC
DI ONCOLOGIA
MOLECOLARE

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Postdoctoral training fellow

Our laboratory is seeking a highly motivated and ambitious post-doctoral fellow interested to study the importance of selected epigenetic determinants in the differentiation and malignant transformation of mature B-lymphocytes.

The research activities will focus on analyses of genetically engineered mouse mutants in which expression of components of the Polycomb group protein family, or the histone demethylases KDM6A/UTX and KDM6B/JMJD3 are conditionally inactivated and/or over-expressed *in vivo*, starting from different stages of B cell lymphopoiesis.

Specifically, the candidate will define the *in vivo* role of key Polycomb group proteins and antagonists KDM6A and KDM6B in B lymphocyte plasticity, longevity, activation, terminal differentiation and malignant transformation. The investigations will also help to unveil the molecular mechanisms responsible for B cell associated immune disorders observed in Kabuki Syndrome (KS) patients inheriting *KDM6A* mutations.

Studies on the role of the Polycomb regulatory axis in lymphomagenesis are integrated within a comprehensive lymphoma research program, which aims to rapidly translate basic research findings into the clinical setting, to improve diagnosis and cure of B cell lymphomas, and to fight resistances to current anti-lymphoma therapies. For this, our group has built in the past several years solid collaborations with internationally recognized hemato-pathologists and onco-hematologists, ensuring the rapid translation of knowledge from the bench to the bedside of cancer patients.

The projects in which the candidate will take the lead are at an advanced stage of development, offering her/him the unique opportunity to readily accomplish the main goals necessary for the publication of at least two manuscripts, and for collecting data to sustain promising new directions of the studies.

A strong background in molecular immunology (especially B cell biology) and/or chromatin biology and mouse (cancer) genetics is expected from the candidate to conduct her/his research activities. Expertise in cancer/lymphoma genetics and/or epigenetics will represent an added value to ensure rapid acquaintance with experimental activities devoted to the study of malignant B cells.

The successful candidate will hold a PhD and/or MD degree (or be in the final stages of completion) and show a proven track record of productivity. Manuscripts under peer review evaluation and/or in

press will be considered. Evidence for data presentation at scientific meetings will be taken into consideration.

The candidate will be offered an internationally competitive salary, commensurate with skills and working experience, and several benefits including the participation to soft skill and future perspective courses organized by the IFOM post-doctoral association (<https://www-new.ifom.eu/en/community/postdoc-association.php>). This full-time position is initially for one year, renewable. Applications for prestigious post-doctoral fellowships (i.e. sponsored by the European Molecular Biology Organization, Human Frontier Science Program, European Commission, Leukemia and Lymphoma Society, Cancer Research Institute etc), and, later, for young investigator start-up awards will be strongly encouraged and supported.

IFOM is a dynamic non-profit cancer research institute hosted within a campus shared with the European Institute of Oncology and the Italian Institute of Technology.

IFOM continuous success is guaranteed by the recruitment of a highly selected group of young and motivated undergraduate, graduate and post-graduate scientists from over 24 countries worldwide. IFOM offers continuous support to its international investigators and their families thanks to the activities of the Welcome office.

Candidates interested in the position are expected to send their CV, together with a cover letter outlining their interests and describing how they meet the set criteria, and contact details of their referees to **stefano.casola@ifom.eu**

Consideration of applications will begin as they are received and will continue until the position is filled.

Stefano Casola. MD, PhD

Principal Investigator

Head of the Genetics of B cells and lymphoma unit.

The FIRC Institute of Molecular Oncology (IFOM) Foundation

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<http://www.ifom.eu/en/cancer-research/programs/genetics-bcells-lymphomas.php>