



***Giovedì 12 Dicembre, ore 17:00***

Aula Magna

Viale Regina Elena 295



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***Overcoming resistance to checkpoint blockade with precision cancer immunotherapy***

*Immune checkpoint blockade therapy has been demonstrated to significantly extend survival of cancer patients across multiple tumor types. However, durable clinical responses occur only in a limited fraction of patients, highlighting the need to deepen our understanding of the molecular mechanisms underlying response and resistance to checkpoint blockade to guide more personalized and rational use of these therapies. Immune regulatory mechanisms are one of the major barriers limiting efficacy of immunotherapy and may thus constitute rational therapeutic targets to potentiate anti-tumor immunity. In this seminar, I will describe our recent findings regarding the role of a non-conventional immunosuppressive CD4<sup>+</sup>Foxp3<sup>+</sup>PD-1<sup>hi</sup> T-cell subset with T-follicular-helper-like features in the response to immune checkpoint blockade therapy. In addition, I will provide an overview of the mechanisms of action of a different immunotherapeutic approach, with antibodies engaging the immune co-stimulatory receptor GITR, and our results with respect to the most appropriate contexture for targeting conventional regulatory T cells with GITR agonism and maximize anti-tumor activity.*



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**LA RICERCA IN PERSONA**