Mario Cazzola

Personal data

Date and place of birth: 03/04/1947, Cava Manara (PV), Italy

Citizenship: Italian

Work address: Department of Hematology Oncology, Fondazione IRCCS Policlinico San Matteo, Piazzale Golgi 19, 27100 Pavia, Italy

Phone: +39-0382-503595, Fax: +39-0382-502250

Email: mario.cazzola@unipv.it

Education

1972: M.D., University of Pavia, Italy.
1975: Board Certification in Hematology, University of Pavia, Italy.

Current Position

Mario Cazzola is full Professor of Hematology at the Department of Molecular Medicine, University of Pavia, and Head of the Division of Hematology, Fondazione IRCCS Policlinico San Matteo, Pavia, Italy.

Scientific Research

In the early 80's, Mario Cazzola collaborated with Professor C.A. Finch at the University of Washington School of Medicine, Seattle, USA, on studies on the erythroid marrow function and the pathophysiology of anemia. He continued these investigations in Pavia, where he conducted clinical trials on the use of erythropoietin in the treatment of anemia in hematologic malignancies. This treatment was later found to be associated with improved survival in myelodysplastic syndromes [*J Clin Oncol. 2008 Jul 20;26(21):3607-13*]. From 1998 to 2006, he coordinated a national collaborative project that has been supported for 8 years by the Italian Ministry of University and Research (MIUR), and was aimed at defining the molecular basis of disorders of iron metabolism in man. These investigations led to the identification of novel genes and proteins of iron metabolism, the definition of the molecular basis of related disorders, and the definition of translational pathophysiology as a novel molecular mechanism of human disease [*Blood. 2000 Jun 1;95(11):3280-8*].

Current research interests mainly concern myelodysplastic syndromes and myeloproliferative neoplasms.

The studies on myelodysplastic syndromes have been conducted in collaboration with Jacqueline Boultwood, Molecular Hematology Unit, Oxford, England, Eva Hellström-Lindberg, Karolinska University Hospital, Stockholm, Sweden, and Ulrich Germing, Heinrich-Heine-University, Duesseldorf, Germany. These investigations led to the definition of specific gene expression profiles in myelodysplastic syndromes [*Blood. 2006 Jul 1;108(1):337-45 - Leukemia. 2010 Apr;24(4):756-64*],the identification of the molecular basis of refractory anemia with ringed sideroblasts associated with marked thrombocytosis [*Blood. 2009 Oct 22;114(17):3538-45*], and the development of the WPSS [*J Clin Oncol. 2007 Aug 10;25(23):3503-10*] as a valuable tool for risk assessment in myelodysplastic syndromes [*Hematol Oncol Clin North Am. 2010 Apr;24(2):459-68*].

The studies on myeloproliferative neoplasms have been performed in collaboration with Radek Skoda, Experimental Hematology, University Hospital Basel, Basel, Switzerland, and Robert Kralovics, Center for Molecular Medicine, Austrian Academy of Sciences, Vienna, Austria. These investigations led to the identification of the unique gain-of-function mutation of *JAK2* in myeloproliferative neoplasms [*N Engl J Med. 2005 Apr 28;352(17):1779-90*]. This opened avenues of research, and in collaboration with Dr. Francesco Passamonti and Dr. Elisa Rumi, Mario Cazzola performed several translational research studies in myeloproliferative neoplasms [*Blood. 2013 May 23;121(21):4388-95 - Blood. 2012 Aug 9;120(6):1197-201 - Blood. 2011 Mar 10;117(10):2813-6 - Leukemia. 2010 Sep;24(9):1574-9 - J Clin Oncol. 2009 Feb 10;27(5):754-62 - J Clin Oncol. 2007 Dec 10;25(35):5630-5 - Blood. 2008 Feb 1;111(3):1686-9- Blood. 2006 May 1;107(9):3676-82*].

In 2010, Mario Cazzola joined the International Cancer Genome Consortium Chronic Myeloid Disorders Working Group. This collaboration led to the identification of somatic mutations of *SF3B1*, a gene encoding a core component of RNA splicing machinery, in myelodysplasia with ring sideroblasts [*N Engl J Med. 2011 Oct 13;365(15):1384-95 - Blood. 2011 Dec 8;118(24):6239-46*]. These mutations implicate abnormalities of mRNA splicing, a pathway not previously known as a target for mutation, in the pathogenesis of human malignancies. More recently, the International Cancer Genome Consortium Chronic Myeloid Disorders Working Group has studied oncogenic mutations in a large, well-characterized cohort of patients with myelodysplastic syndrome, defining the interconnections between cancer genome and disease biology [*Blood. 2013 Sep 12, Epub ahead of print*].

Scientific publications include 330 peer-reviewed articles in journals covered by the JCR®.

Mario Cazzola's H-index (Google Scholar) is equal to 67.

Editorial activity

Mario Cazzola has been Editor-in-Chief of Haematologica, the official organ of the European Hematology Association, from 2002 to 2011.

Since January 2013 he is Associate Editor for Blood, the official organ of the American Society of Hematology.