



## PAOLO GANDELLINI, PhD

Dr. Paolo Gandellini is researcher at the Molecular Pharmacology Unit, Department of Experimental Oncology, Fondazione IRCCS Istituto Nazionale Tumori, Milan, Italy.

Graduated in Biotechnology with a thesis on the design of third-generation antisense oligomers and siRNAs to inhibit telomerase in cancer cells, since his PhD (obtained in 2010 at The Open University, UK) he has been investigating the role of non-coding RNAs, mostly microRNAs, in cancer development and progression. In this regard, he first reported down-regulation of *miR-205* in prostate cancer and evidence of its role as tumor suppressor by counteracting epithelial-mesenchymal transition. He also demonstrated that loss of *miR-205* may concomitantly contribute to acquire mesenchymal tracts and establish a permissive autophagic milieu that confers a chemotherapy resistant phenotype. In addition, he showed that *miR-205* is able to control both the afferent and efferent arms of the circuit between tumor cells and associated fibroblasts.

Current research interests extended to the study of the role of microRNAs in other tumor types (peritoneal mesothelioma) and to the function of additional non-coding RNA species, such as long non-coding RNAs, in prostate cancer.

Ultimate goal of his work is the identification and validation of novel biomarkers and therapeutic targets in human cancer.