



## Curriculum vitae

**Alessandra Merlini**

### **Personal details**

Name and surname: Alessandra Merlini

Title: MD, PhD

Medical Oncologist

Registration Number: n. 0000009503 - Albo Provinciale dei Medici Chirurghi di Pavia

Email: [alessandra.merlini@unito.it](mailto:alessandra.merlini@unito.it)

Phone: +39 0116703714

### **Current Institution**

Translational Oncology Laboratory, Department of Oncology, University of Turin

San Luigi Gonzaga University Hospital

10043 Orbassano (TO), Turin, Italy

### **Website:**

**ORCID ID:** 0000-0002-5280-1411 ; **Scopus ID:** 56490593700 ; **Researcher ID:** ABB-4487-2021

### **Education**

- 2020 - 2022: PhD in Oncology and Biomedical Sciences, University of Turin
- 2016 - 2021: Medical Oncology Resident, Department of Oncology, University of Turin (70/70 with honors)
- 02/03/2016 Board Certification, Registration Number: n. 0000009503 - Albo Provinciale dei Medici Chirurghi di Pavia, Ordine dei Medici di Pavia
- 2009 - 2016 Degree in Medicine and Surgery (110/110 with honors)



### **Professional experiences and current position**

- 01.02.2022 – present: Research Fellow and Assistant Professor, Department of Oncology, University of Turin, San Luigi Gonzaga University Hospital, 10043 Orbassano (TO)
- 2016 - 2021: Medical Oncology Resident, Department of Oncology, University of Turin (70/70 with honors)

*During the Medical Oncology Residency, I participated in several observational, and interventional phase II and III clinical trials as sub-investigator and took part in translational research activities in the Sarcoma Unit laboratory.*

### **Teaching activity**

- 2023 - ongoing: PhD course in Oncology and Biomedical Sciences (BIO0190)

### **Research main topics**

Bone and soft tissue sarcomas

- Resistance mechanisms to conventional chemotherapy and targeted treatment
- Immunomodulating effects of conventional and targeted treatments
- Novel immunotherapeutic strategies, experimental cell therapies

### **Bibliometry (2015-present)** ([www.scopus.com](http://www.scopus.com))

Citations: 97

Co-authors: 139

H-index: 6



## Publications

1. **Merlini A**, Pavese V, Manessi G, Rabino M, Tolomeo F, Aliberti S, D'Ambrosio L, Grignani G. Targeting cyclin-dependent kinases in sarcoma treatment: Current perspectives and future directions. *Front Oncol*. 2023 Jan 19;13:1095219. doi: 10.3389/fonc.2023
2. Vitali L, **Merlini A (co-first authorship)**, Galvagno F, Proment A, Sangiolo D. Biological and Exploitable Crossroads for the Immune Response in Cancer and COVID-19. *Biomedicines*. 2022 Oct 19;10(10):2628. doi: 10.3390/biomedicines10102628
3. Grignani G, **Merlini A**, Aliberti S. Being the ultimate travel companion of a patient with uterine leiomyosarcoma. *Fut Oncol* 2022; 10.2217/fon-2022-0637
4. Broto JM, Hindi N, Grignani G, **Merlini A**, Ibrahim T, Le Cesne A. Experience with second-line trabectedin in daily clinical practice: case studies. *Fut Oncol* 2022; <https://doi.org/10.2217/fon-2022-0519>
5. Fiorino E, **Merlini A (corresponding author)**, D'Ambrosio L, Cerviere I, Berrino E, Marchio' C, et al. Integrated Antitumor Activities of Cellular Immunotherapy with CIK Lymphocytes and Interferons against KIT/PDGFRA Wild Type GIST. *Int. J. Mol. Sci.* 2022; 23(18):10368; <https://doi.org/10.3390/ijms231810368>
6. Conforti F, Gronchi A, Penel N, Jones RL, Broto JM, Sala I, Bagnardi V, Napolitano A, Pala L, Pennacchioli E, Catania C, Queirolo P, Grigani G, **Merlini A**, Stacchiotti S, Comandone A, Vincenzi B, Quagliuolo V, Bertuzzi A, Boglione A, Palassini E, Baldi GG, Blay JY, Ryckewaert T, Toulmonde M, Italiano A, Le Cesne A, Ray-Coquard I, Cruz J, Hernández-León CN, Trufero JM, da Silva Moura D, Muñoz NH, De Pas T. Chemotherapy in patients with localized angiosarcoma of any site: A retrospective european study. *Eur J Cancer*. 2022 Aug;171:183-192. doi: 10.1016/j.ejca.2022.04.030. Epub 2022 Jun 18. PMID: 35728378.
7. **Merlini A**, Centomo ML, Ferrero G, Chiabotto G, Miglio U, Berrino E, Giordano G, Brusco S, Pisacane A, Maldì E, Sarotto I, Capozzi F, Lano C, Isella C, Crisafulli G, Aglietta M, Dei Tos AP, Sbaraglia M, Sangiolo D, D'Ambrosio L, Bardelli A, Pignochino Y and Grignani G (2022) DNA damage response and repair genes in advanced bone and soft tissue sarcomas: An 8-gene signature as a candidate predictive biomarker of response to trabectedin and olaparib combination. *Front. Oncol.* 12:844250. doi: 10.3389/fonc.2022.844250



8. Colombo C, Fiore M, Grignani G, Tolomeo F, **Merlini A**, Palassini E, Collini P, Stacchiotti S, Casali PG, Perrone F, Mariani L, Gronchi A. A prospective observational study of Active surveillance in primary desmoid fibromatosis. *Clin Cancer Res.* 2022;24:clincanres.4205.2021. doi: 10.1158/1078-0432.CCR-21-4205. Epub ahead of print. PMID: 35247923.
9. Pignochino Y, Crisafulli G, Giordano G, **Merlini A (corresponding author)**, Berrino E, Centomo ML, Chiabotto G, Brusco S, Basiricò M, Maldi E, Pisacane A, Leuci V, Sangiolo D, D'Ambrosio L, Aglietta M, Kasper B, Bardelli A, Grignani G. PARP1 Inhibitor and Trabectedin Combination Does Not Increase Tumor Mutational Burden in Advanced Sarcomas-A Preclinical and Translational Study. *Cancers (Basel)* 2021; 13(24):6295. PMID: 34944915.
10. Giordano G, **Merlini A (co-first authorship)**, Ferrero G, Mesiano G, Fiorino E, Brusco S, Centomo ML, Leuci V, D'Ambrosio L, Aglietta M, Sangiolo D, Grignani G, Pignochino Y. EphA2 Expression in Bone Sarcomas: Bioinformatic Analyses and Preclinical Characterization in Patient-Derived Models of Osteosarcoma, Ewing's Sarcoma and Chondrosarcoma. *Cells* 2021;10:2893.
11. Nannini M, Rizzo A, Nigro MC, Vincenzi B, Mazzocca A, Grignani G, **Merlini A**, D'Ambrosio L, Tolomeo F, Badalamenti G, Incorvaia L, Bonasera A, Fumagalli E, Miliziano D, Ligorio F, Brunello A, Chiusole B, Gasperoni S, Novelli M, Pantaleo MA. Standard versus personalized schedule of regorafenib in metastatic gastrointestinal stromal tumors: a retrospective, multicenter, real-world study. *ESMO Open.* 2021;6(4):100222.
12. Cannella R, Tabone E, Porrello G, Cappello G, Gozzo C, Incorvaia L, Grignani G, **Merlini A**, D'Ambrosio L, Badalamenti G, Regge D, Bartolotta TV. Assessment of morphological CT imaging features for the prediction of risk stratification, mutations, and prognosis of gastrointestinal stromal tumors. *European Radiology* 2021; PMID: 33881567.
13. Aliberti S, Miano S, Tolomeo F, **Merlini A (corresponding author)**, Aglietta M, Grignani G. Response to eribulin in a patient with metastatic uterine leiomyosarcoma: a case report. *Future Oncology* 2020; 16(1s):15-19.
14. Leuci V, Donini C, Grignani G, Rotolo R, Mesiano G, Fiorino E, Gammaitoni L, D'Ambrosio L, **Merlini A**, Landoni E, Medico E, Capellero S, Giraudo L, Cattaneo G, Iaia I, Pignochino Y, Basiricò M, Vigna E, Pisacane A, Fagioli F, Ferrone S, Aglietta M, Dotti G, Sangiolo D. CSPG4-Specific CAR.CIK Lymphocytes as a Novel Therapy for the Treatment of Multiple Soft-Tissue Sarcoma Histotypes. *Clinical Cancer Research* 2020;26(23):6321-34



15. Chiabotto G, Grignani G, Todorovic M, Martin V, Centomo ML, Prola E, Giordano G, **Merlini A**, Miglio U, Berrino E, Napione L, Isella C, Capozzi F, Basiricò M, Marsero C, Gerardi I, Venesio T, Sangiolo D, Aglietta M, D'Ambrosio L, Pignochino Y. Pazopanib and Trametinib as a Synergistic Strategy against Osteosarcoma: Preclinical Activity and Molecular Insights. *Cancers* 2020; 12(6):1519.
16. Grignani G, **Merlini A (co-first authorship)**, Sangiolo D, D'Ambrosio L, Pignochino Y. Delving into PARP inhibition from bench to bedside and back. *Pharmacology & Therapeutics* 2020; 206:107446.
17. Huh SJ, Clement K, Jee D, **Merlini A**, Choudhury S, Maruyama R, Yoo R, Chytil A, Boyle P, Ran FA, Moses HL, Barcellos-Hoff MH, Jackson-Grusby L, Meissner A, Polyak K. Age- and pregnancy-associated DNA methylation changes in mammary epithelial cells. *Stem Cell Reports*. 2015; 10;4(2):297-311.
18. D'Ambrosio L, Sangiolo D, **Merlini A**, Grignani G, Aglietta M. Chapter 42 - Immunological and Genetic Biomarkers of Sarcomas: Implication for Future Treatment Strategies, Editor(s): Franco Dammacco, Franco Silvestris. *Oncogenomics*, Academic Press, 2019, Pages 591-608, ISBN 9780128117859.
19. Pionelli MG, Asaftei SD, Meazza C, Longhi A, Tamburini A, Coccoli L, **Merlini A**, Cagnazzo C, Tirtei E, Fagioli F. Gemcitabine-docetaxel in patients with relapsed high-grade osteosarcoma after first-line treatment with high-dose ifosfamide: A retrospective multicenter study. *ASCO 2022*; *J Clin Oncol* 40, 2022 (suppl 16; abstr 11520)
20. Giordano G, Capozzi F, Ferrero G, **Merlini A**, Brusco S, Peraldo Neia C, Mesiano G, Fiorino E, Tucciarello C, Massa A, Leuci V, Aglietta M, Sangiolo D, Grignani G, Pignochino Y. Trabectedin-olaparib combination primes immunotherapy with HLA-independent killer lymphocytes against soft tissue sarcomas. *EACR 2022*; EACR22-0903
21. **Merlini A (poster presentation)**, Centomo ML, Chiabotto G, Giordano G, Miglio U, Berrino E, Ferrero G, D'Ambrosio L, Grignani G, Pignochino Y. Differential expression of DNA damage response and repair genes as a predictive biomarker of response to trabectedin and PARP1 inhibitor in advanced soft tissue sarcomas. *EACR 2021*; EACR21v-0771
22. Fiorino E, Mesiano G, Cerviere I, Berrino E, D'Ambrosio L, **Merlini A**, Venesio T, Pignochino Y, Pisacane A, Gammaitoni L, Grignani G, Aglietta M, Sangiolo D. Explorative model of imatinib resistant wild type GIST and potential immunotherapy strategies. *Annals of Oncology* 2020; 31(Supplement4):S979-S979. *ESMO 2020*; Meeting Abstract1633P
23. Tolomeo F, Chilà G, D'Ambrosio L, **Merlini A**, Sgandurra P, Kubatzki P, Sgrò LG, Miano S, Manessi G, Pisacane A, Aliberti S, Siatis D, Gatti M, Biglia N, Ponzzone R, Aglietta M, Grignani G. Impact of



upfront multidisciplinary tumor board (MTB) evaluation on breast sarcoma (BS) outcome. ASCO 2020;  
DOI: 10.1200/JCO.2020.38.15\_suppl.e23546 Journal of Clinical Oncology 38, no. 15\_suppl

24. Tolomeo F, Gatti M, D'Ambrosio L, Rampino M, Boglione A, **Merlini A**, Manessi G, Miano S, Salatino A, Cattari G, Bertotto I, Robba T, Mussano A, Rossi L, Piana R, Comandone A, Aliberti S, Aglietta M, Grignani G. Tumor control with palliative external beam radiation therapy (EBRT) in advanced and unresectable osteosarcoma (OS) progressing after standard treatment. Journal of Clinical Oncology. ASCO 2019; DOI: 10.1200/JCO.2019.37.15\_suppl.e22508 Journal of Clinical Oncology 37, no. 15\_suppl
25. Matteo C, Zucchetti M, D'Ambrosio L, Pignochino Y, Dovrtelova G, Tolomeo F, **Merlini A**, Picci P, Palmerini E, D'Incalci M, Grignani G. Pharmacokinetics of trabectedin and olaparib given in combination during a phase 1b trial (NCT 02398058) in patients with advanced and non-resectable bone and soft tissue sarcomas. European Journal of Cancer 103, E58, Suppl.1. 30th EORTC-NCI-AACR Symposium 2018; Meeting Abstract 158

Turin, 01-MAR-2023