



**Gabriele Romano, PhD**  
*Assistant Professor, He/him*  
*Department of Pharmacology & Physiology*  
**Drexel University College of Medicine**  
IRT Program - Sidney Kimmel Cancer Center  
245 North 15th Street, NCB 8814A  
Philadelphia, PA 19102

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## CURRICULUM VITAE

### SECTION I

Date Prepared: 2024-03-27  
Current Position(s): Assistant Professor, Pharmacology and Physiology, Drexel University  
College of Medicine  
Full Member, Immune Cell Regulation & Targeting (IRT) Program of  
Excellence, Sidney Kimmel Cancer Center

Office Address: 245 North 15th Street, Philadelphia, PA 19102  
Work Email: [gr476@drexel.edu](mailto:gr476@drexel.edu)

### Education

2007 - 2010 BS, Biotechnology, Università degli Studi di Milano-Bicocca  
2010 - 2012 MS, Medical Biotechnology, Università degli Studi di Milano-Bicocca  
2012 - 2015 PhD, Translational and Molecular Medicine, Università degli Studi di  
Milano-Bicocca

### Postdoctoral Training

2016 - 2021 Department of Translational Molecular Pathology Postdoctoral Fellow at  
the The University of Texas MD Anderson Cancer Center

### Faculty Academic Appointments

2021 Instructor, Department of Translational Molecular Pathology, The  
University of Texas MD Anderson Cancer Center  
01/2022 - Present Assistant Professor, Pharmacology and Physiology, Drexel University  
College of Medicine  
01/2022 - Present Full Member, Immune Cell Regulation & Targeting (IRT) Program of  
Excellence, Sidney Kimmel Cancer Center

### Other Scientific Appointments

2014-2016 Co-founder and Scientific Advisor for GRG Gene Technology SA, Minusio,  
Switzerland

### Honors and Awards

2013 Scholarship "High-level Education and Internationalization", Cariplo  
Foundation, Milan, Italy



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2013	Scholarship for the "22nd Annual Short Course on Experimental Models of Human C, The Jackson Lab
2014	Scholarship for the study and research of Animal Models of Xenotransplantation, University of Milano Bicocca, Italy
2017	Scholar In Training Award - Advances in Modeling Cancer in Mice, AACR, Orlando
2019	Outstanding Research Publication Award in Translational Research, MD Anderson Cancer Center (Supported by The Heath Memorial Fund)
2019	Maryanne Rosenstein Family Fellowship in Cancer Research, MD Anderson Cancer Center
2022	Drexel University nominee for the 2023 Pew Biomedical Scholars competition, Drexel University
2023	Drexel University nominee for the 2023 WW Smith Trust, Drexel University
2024	Rising Star Award, Sidney Kimmel Cancer Center Consortium

## **SECTION II Leadership, Service, and Mentorship**

### **Leadership in Professional Societies / Organizations**

#### Local

2023 - Present	Interdisciplinary Cancer Cell Consortium (IC3) - Philadelphia Junior PI Working group, Co-founder
2023	IMES Summer DUCOM MiniSymposium 2023, Chair

#### National / International

2023 - Present	Annual Immunomodulation and Engineering Symposium (IMES), Board Member and Session Chair
2024 - Present	Pennsylvania, New Jersey, and Delaware Chapter of ISSNAF (Italian Scientists & Scholars in North America Foundation), Co-Founder and Chair

### **Editorial Activities**

#### Ad hoc Reviewer

Oncogene  
Oncotarget  
Clinical Cancer Research  
iScience  
Cancer Research Communications  
PlosOne



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Cell Death and Disease  
Cancers  
Cancer Research  
Molecular Cancer Therapy

## Grant Review Activities

### Extramural

2023 - Present      Mechanisms of Cancer Therapeutics A [MCTA], National Cancer Institute

### Institutional

2023 - Present      Mary Hoffman Shaw Travel Award, Drexel University College of Medicine

2024- Present      WW Smith Charitable Trust, Internal Competition, Drexel University

## Service

### Drexel University College of Medicine Committee Service/Task Force

2023 - Present      Molecular & Cell Biology & Genetics Graduate Program steering committee, Member

### Other Service

2021      Trainee breakfast sessions with the Distinguished Speaker - MD Anderson Cancer Center - TMP Dept., Moderator and session series leader

2021      Outstanding Mentorship Awards Committee - MD Anderson Cancer Center - TMP Dept., Chair

2022 - Present      PhD Thesis Committee - Jieyi Zhang, Committee member

2022 - 2023      MS Thesis Committee - Kelvin Koser, Committee Chair

2022 - 2023      MS Thesis Committee - Celina Guzman, Committee Chair

2022 - 2023      MS Thesis Committee - Mohammed Sani, Committee member

2023      MS Thesis Committee - Jennifer Lynch, Committee Chair

2024 - Present      PhD Thesis Committee - Alyssa Sanders, Committee member

2024 Present      MS Thesis Committee – Katie Hausman, Committee member

2024 - Present      STAR Scholars Program, Applications Reviewer

2024 Present      MS Thesis Committee – Diego Jimenez Trejo, Committee Chair

## Community Service – Report of Education of Patients and Service to the Community



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### Participation in patient centered organizations

2023 - Present                      Making Research CLEAR Program , Investigator

### Personal Community Service

2019                                      Lecturer for Texas DNA Day 2019, Klein High School , Klein, TX  
2023 - Present                      Mentor for volunteer High School Student (Paolo Agosti), Drexel University College of Medicine, Philadelphia

### Advocacy

2023 - Present                      Immune Cell Regulation & Targeting (IRT) Program of Excellence  
Annual Retreat - Sidney Kimmel Cancer, Organizing Committee  
Member and Session chair for Community Outreach and  
Engagement panel

### **Mentorship (students, residents, fellows, faculty and staff)**

#### Formal Supervision of Drexel Trainees and Faculty

2022                                      Mohamed Ahmed, Drexel University College of Medicine, Supervisor for the Steinbright Career Development Center Undergrad Co-Op program, set up equipment in newly established laboratory  
2022                                      Lindsey Bellis, Drexel University College of Medicine, Mentor and Lab Supervisor - Undergraduate Student, learned basic wetlab skills  
2022                                      Kelly Baran, Drexel University College of Medicine, Mentor and Lab Supervisor - Undergraduate Student, learned basic wetlab skills  
2022                                      Kara Moran, Drexel University College of Medicine, Mentor and Lab Supervisor - Undergraduate Student, learned basic wetlab skills  
2022                                      Kirsten Benes, Drexel University College of Medicine, Mentor and Lab Supervisor, STAR (Students Tackling Advanced Research)  
2022                                      Diego Jimenez Trejo, Drexel University College of Medicine, MS Rotation Supervisor, Janssen-Drexel 4D Fellowship Program  
2022                                      Hieu Jeromy , Drexel University College of Medicine, MS Rotation Supervisor, Janssen-Drexel 4D Fellowship Program  
2022 - 2023                      Pearl Diabene, Drexel University College of Medicine, Supervision and mentorship of Undergraduate student (Biological Sciences major, pre-med track), STAR (Students Tackling Advanced Research) Scholar; Travel grant for the World Congress on Undergraduate Research 2023; Undergraduate Research Mini-Grant for Winter Term 2023



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2023	Jason DaCunza , Drexel University College of Medicine, MS Rotation Supervisor, Successfully completed rotation
2023 - Present	Lindsay Barger , Drexel University College of Medicine, PhD advisor, 1 manuscript publication; T32 NRSA Fellow – NIMH (MH079785)
2023 - Present	Olivia El Naggar , Drexel University College of Medicine, PhD advisor, 1 manuscript publication;
2023 - Present	Binh Ha, Drexel University College of Medicine, PhD advisor, 1 manuscript in preparation
2024 - Present	Paulina Daugis, Drexel University College of Medicine, Post-Bac supervisor

#### Other Mentorship of Trainees, Peers, and Faculty

2017	Roger Liang, MD Anderson Cancer Center, Research activities supervisor for BIOC310 (Rice University), started a post-bac at NIH
2017 - 2018	David Yang , MD Anderson Cancer Center, Research activities supervisor for BIOC310 (Rice University), learned basic wetlab skills
2018 - 2019	Hannah Towbin , MD Anderson Cancer Center, Research activities supervisor for BIOC310 (Rice University), learned basic wetlab skills
2018	Paul Lie, MD Anderson Cancer Center, Research activities supervisor for ITERT Undergraduate Summer Research Training, learned basic wetlab skills
2018 - 2020	Paul Ryu, MD Anderson Cancer Center, Research activities supervisor for BIOC310 (Rice University), learned basic wetlab skills
2019 - 2020	Yunee Park, MD Anderson Cancer Center, Research activities supervisor for BIOC310 (Rice University), learned basic wetlab skills
2021	Helena Nammour, MD Anderson Cancer Center, Research activities supervisor for BIOC310 (Rice University), learned basic wetlab skills and developed independent project; accepted in med school
2022 - Present	Fadi Kharban, Drexel University, Mentor - Liberty Scholar Program for Historically Underrepresented Minority Students, Guided pre-med mentee through first steps in academic career

## **Section III Funding**

### **Extramural**

#### Current Funding

10/01/2023 - 09/01/2026	Role of Perilesional Reactive Astrocytosis in Melanoma Brain Metastases , U.S. Department of Defense, Co-I, Direct Costs: \$500000, Indirect Costs: \$168038, Total Costs: \$668,038
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- 10/01/2023 - 09/01/2026 Biomimetic Nanoparticle-Mediated Delivery of Immunomodulating Nucleic Acids as a Strategy to Anticipate Melanoma Drug Resistance, U.S. Department of Defense, PI, Direct Costs: \$500000, Indirect Costs: \$168038, Total Costs: \$668,038
- 07/01/2023 - 06/01/2025 Adjuvant CCL5/CCR5 axis inhibition for the treatment of BRAF-mutant melanoma , American Cancer Society, PI, Direct Costs: \$270000, Indirect Costs: \$30000, Total Costs: \$300,000
- 01/01/2024 - 12/31/2024 Boosting the T-cell response against melanoma in PLWH, W.W. Smith Charitable Trust, PI, Direct Costs: \$112500, Indirect Costs: \$12500, Total Costs: \$125,000

## **Institutional**

### Current Funding

- 03/01/2024 - 02/28/2025 Evaluating immune dysfunction in Aging and HIV-associated Melanomas: The AaHM Study, Geriatric Oncology Center of Excellence - SKCC, Co-I, Direct Costs: \$50000, Indirect Costs: \$0, Total Costs: \$50,000
- 04/01/2024 - 03/31/2025 Immunologic functions of myeloid-derived suppressor cells in cancer and HIV co-morbidity, Comprehensive NeuroHIV Center (CNHC) Developmental Research and Mentoring Core (NIMH-funded), PI, Direct Costs: \$20,000, Indirect Costs: \$0, Total Costs: \$20,000
- 06/01/2024 - 05/30/2025 Targeting myeloid-derived suppressor cells as an adjuvant strategy to treat melanoma in PLWH, Interconsortium Pilot Funding Opportunity – Sidney Kimmel Cancer Center, PI, Direct Costs: \$83,300, Indirect Costs: \$0, Total Costs: \$83,300

### Past Funding

- 09/01/2020 - 08/01/2021 Divisional Fellow Research Grant, Division of Pathology & Laboratory Medicine - MD Anderson Cancer Center, PI, Direct Costs: \$15000, Indirect Costs: \$0, Total Costs: \$15,000
- 09/01/2013 - 08/01/2014 Graduate student scholarship for the study and research of Animal Models of Xenotransplantation, University of Milano-Bicocca, PI, Direct Costs: \$23000, Indirect Costs: \$0, Total Costs: \$23,000
- 05/01/2019 - 04/01/2020 Maryanne Rosenstein Family Fellowship in Cancer Research, MD Anderson Cancer Center, PI, Direct Costs: \$4000, Indirect Costs: \$0, Total Costs: \$4,000



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01/01/2022 - 01/01/2023 Inhibition of CCR5/CCL5 recruitment axis as an adjuvant strategy to treat melanoma in PLWH", American Cancer Society, PI, Direct Costs: \$40000, Indirect Costs: \$0, Total Costs: \$40,000

## Section IV Teaching and Courses

### Curricular / Program Taught

2023 - Present Methods in Biomedical Science (PHRM 519) , Lecturer, Drexel University College of Medicine, Graduate Students Focused, Face-to-face, 10 "learners"

2023 - Present Responsible Conduct of Research(IDPT 500S), Course Co-director, Drexel University College of Medicine, Graduate Students Focused, Hybrid, 95 "learners"

2023 - Present Introduction to Responsible Conduct of Research, Lecturer - Summer Undergraduate Research Fellowship, Drexel University College of Medicine, Undergraduate Focused, Face-to-face, 10 "learners"

2023 - Present Responsible Conduct of Research – Rigor and Reproducibility, Lecturer for 1st year Medical Student Summer Research Fellowship, Drexel University College of Medicine, Undergraduate Medical Education Focused, Face-to-face, 15 "learners"

2024 - Present Cell Cycle and Apoptosis (MCBG 514S), Lecturer, Drexel University College of Medicine, Graduate Students Focused, Face-to-face, 10 "learners"

### Teaching of Learners (medical students, graduate students, residents, other learners)

2014 - 2016 Pathology and Immunology Laboratory , University of Milano-Bicocca, Milan, Italy, Lecturer, Undergraduate Medical Education Focused, 25 Learners, Face-to-face

2021 Succeeding in Academic Science: Navigating the Scholastic Research Track, ITERT, University of Texas MD Anderson Cancer Center , Houston, TX, Instructor, Postdoctoral Fellows Focused, 30 Learners, Online

## Section VI Report of Scholarship

Grassilli E., Narloch R., Federzoni E., Ianzano L., Pisano F., Giovannoni R., **Romano G.**, Masiero L.,



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Leone B.E., Bonin S., Donada M., Stanta G., Helin K., Lavitrano M., Inhibition of GSK3B bypass drug resistance of p53-null colon carcinomas by enabling necroptosis in response to chemotherapy, *Clinical Cancer Research*, 2013-07-15 00:00:00

Agostini M., Zangrando A., Pastrello C., D'Angelo E., **Romano G.**, Giovannoni R., Giordan M., Maretto I., Bedin C., Zanon C., Digito M., Esposito G., Mescoli C., Lavitrano M., Rizzolio F., Jurisica I., Giordano A., Pucciarelli S., Nitti D., A functional biological network centered on XRCC3: A new possible marker of chemoradiotherapy resistance in rectal cancer patients, *Cancer Biology and Therapy*, 2015-01-01 00:00:00

**Romano G.**, Santi L., Bianco M., Giuffrè M., Pettinato M., Bugarin C., Garanzini C., Savarese L., Leoni S., Cerrito M., Leone B., Gaipa G., Grassilli E., Papa M., Lavitrano M., Giovannoni R., The TGF- $\beta$  pathway is activated by 5-fluorouracil treatment in drug resistant colorectal carcinoma cells, *Oncotarget*, 2016-04-19 00:00:00

Caria P., Pillai R., Dettori T., Frau D.V., Zavattari P., Riva G., **Romano G.**, Pani F., Bentivegna A., Giovannoni R., Pagni F., Sogos V., Vanni R., Thyrospheres from B-CPAP cell line with BRAF and TERT promoter mutations have different functional and molecular features than parental cells, *Journal of Cancer*, 2017-01-01 00:00:00

**Romano G.**, Kwong L.N., MiRNAs, melanoma and microenvironment: An intricate network, *International Journal of Molecular Sciences*, 2017-11-07 00:00:00

Cilibrasi C., Riva G., **Romano G.**, Cadamuro M., Bazzoni R., Butta V., Paoletta L., Dalpra L., Strazzabosco M., Lavitrano M., Giovannoni R., Bentivegna A., Resveratrol impairs glioma stem cells proliferation and motility by modulating the wnt signaling pathway, *PLoS ONE*, 2017-01-01 00:00:00

**Romano G.**, Kwong L.N., Diagnostic and therapeutic applications of miRNA-based strategies to cancer immunotherapy, *Cancer and Metastasis Reviews*, 2018-03-01 00:00:00

**Romano G.**, Chagani S., Kwong L., The path to metastatic mouse models of colorectal cancer, *Oncogene*, 2018-05-01 00:00:00.

**Romano G.**, Kwong L.N., BRAF dimerization: An underlying resistance mechanism in low-grade pediatric gliomas, *Cancer Discovery*, 2018-09-01 00:00:00

**Romano G.**, Chen P.L., Song P., McQuade J.L., Liang R.J., Liu M., Roh W., Duose D.Y., Carapeto F.C.L., Li J., Teh J.L.F., Aplin A.E., Chen M., Zhang J., Lazar A.J., Davies M.A., Futreal P.A., Amaria





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R.N., Zhang D.Y., Wargo J.A., Kwong L.N., A preexisting rare PIK3CA  $\epsilon$ 545k subpopulation confers clinical resistance to MEK plus CDK4/6 inhibition in NRAS melanoma and is dependent on S6K1 signaling, *Cancer Discovery*, 2018-05-01 00:00:00

**Romano G.**, Reggi S., Kutryb-Zajac B., Facoetti A., Chisci E., Pettinato M., Giuffrè M.R., Vecchio F., Leoni S., De Giorgi M., Avezza F., Cadamuro M., Crippa L., Leone B.E., Lavitrano M., Rivolta I., Barisani D., Smolenski R.T., Giovannoni R., APOA-1Milano muteins, orally delivered via genetically modified rice, show anti-atherogenic and anti-inflammatory properties in vitro and in Apoe  $-/-$  atherosclerotic mice, *International Journal of Cardiology*, 2018-11-15 00:00:00

Sala L., Cirillo G., Riva G., **Romano G.**, Giussani C., Cialdella A., Todisco A., Virtuoso A., Cerrito M.G., Bentivegna A., Grassilli E., Arzizzaia A., Bonoldi E., Giovannoni R., Papa M., Lavitrano M., Specific expression of a new bruton tyrosine kinase isoform (P65BTK) in the glioblastoma gemistocytic histotype, *Frontiers in Molecular Neuroscience*, 2019-01-24 00:00:00

Lavitrano M., Ianzano L., Bonomo S., Cialdella A., Cerrito M.G., Pisano F., Missaglia C., Giovannoni R., **Romano G.**, McLean C.M., Voest E.E., D'Amato F., Noli B., Ferri G.L., Agostini M., Pucciarelli S., Helin K., Leone B.E., Canzonieri V., Grassilli E., BTK inhibitors synergise with 5-FU to treat drug-resistant TP53-null colon cancers, *Journal of Pathology*, 2020-02-01 00:00:00

Andrews M.C., Oba J., Wu C.J., Zhu H., Karpinets T., Creasy C.A., Forget M.A., Yu X., Song X., Mao X., Robertson A.G., **Romano G.**, Li P., Burton E.M., Lu Y., Sloane R.S., Wani K.M., Rai K., Lazar A.J., Haydu L.E., Bustos M.A., Shen J., Chen Y., Morgan M.B., Wargo J.A., Kwong L.N., Haymaker C.L., Grimm E.A., Hwu P., Hoon D.S.B., Zhang J., Gershenwald J.E., Davies M.A., Futreal P.A., Bernatchez C., Woodman S.E., Multi-modal molecular programs regulate melanoma cell state, *Nature Communications*, 2022-12-01 00:00:00

Virtuoso A., De Luca C., Cirillo G., Riva M., **Romano G.**, Bentivegna A., Lavitrano M., Papa M., Giovannoni R., Tumor Microenvironment and Immune Escape in the Time Course of Glioblastoma, *Molecular Neurobiology*, 2022-11-01 00:00:00

**Romano G.**, Paradiso F., Li P., Shukla P., Barger L.N., Naggar O.E., Miller J.P., Liang R.J., Helms T.L., Lazar A.J., Wargo J.A., Taraballi F., Costello J.C., Kwong L.N., Microparticle-Delivered Cxcl9 Prolongs Braf Inhibitor Efficacy in Melanoma, *Cancer Immunology Research*, 2023-05-01 00:00:00

Perez-Oquendo M., **Romano G.**, Farris D.P., Gandhi V., Wistuba I.I., Tillman R.E., Udan R., Mangahas P. and Soundararajan R. A structured curriculum supporting biomedical trainees' transition into independent academic positions and early career success. *BMC Medical Education* 2024.



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## List of Oral and Poster Presentations at Professional Meetings

Poster - The TGF- $\beta$  pathway is activated by 5-fluorouracil treatment in drug resistant colorectal carcinoma cells, Jackson Lab course on Models of Human Cancer, Bar Harbor, ME

Short Talk and Poster -BRAF inhibition and cytokine therapy for melanoma: A novel rational combined approach, AACR special conference in Mouse modeling , Orlando, FL

Poster - Microparticle-delivered Cxcl9 delays the relapse of Braf inhibitor-treated melanoma, AACR Annual Meeting, Orlando, FL

Poster -BRAF inhibition and cytokine therapy for melanoma: A novel rational combined approach, SMR Annual Meeting , Salt Lake City, UT

Poster -BRAF inhibition and cytokine therapy for melanoma: A novel rational combined approach, CSH Laboratory Mechanisms & Models of Cancer , Cold Spring Harbor, NY

Poster -BRAF inhibition and cytokine therapy for melanoma: A novel rational combined approach, AACR Annual Meeting, Chicago, IL

## List of Patents and Copyrights

2014 - Present                      Combinations of a BTK inhibitor and fluorouracil for treating cancers,  
WO2015015013A1, Awarded

2016 - Present                      Compositions for the administration of ApoA1 and dosages,  
WO2018025153A1, Awarded

## Section VII Presentations

### Report of Regional, National and International Invited Teaching and Presentations

#### International

2022                                      Chemokine-based approaches to treat immunologically "cold"  
tumors, 4th Immune Modulation & Engineering Symposium 2022

#### Local

2021                                      Intrinsic and acquired drug resistance in melanoma: bench-to-  
bedside and back again, Drexel University College of Medicine

2022                                      Chemokine-based approaches to treat immunologically "cold"  
tumors, Drexel University – Molecular and Cell Biology and Genetics  
Graduate Program

2023                                      Chemokine-based approaches to treat immunologically "cold"  
tumors, Drexel University – School of Biomedical Engineering,  
Science & Health Systems



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- 2023 Chemokine-based approaches to treat immunologically "cold" tumors, Sidney Kimmel Cancer Center - Department of Pharmacology, Physiology, and Cancer Biology
- 2023 Chemokine-based approaches to treat immunologically "cold" tumors, Sidney Kimmel Cancer Center - Translational & Cellular Oncology Seminar Series
- National**
- 2023 Novel approaches to treat immunologically "cold" tumors, Sparks/Drexel Gene Therapy Symposium
- Regional**
- 2021 Intrinsic and acquired drug resistance in melanoma: bench-to-bedside and back again, Columbia University, Dept. of Dermatology
- 2021 Intrinsic and acquired drug resistance in melanoma: bench-to-bedside and back again, SUI, Dept. of Medical Microbiology, Immunology, and Cell Biology
- 2023 Chemokine-based approaches to treat immunologically "cold" tumors, New York University Langone Medical Center – Interdisciplinary Melanoma Cooperative Group