

Cancer stem cells

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The majority of human cancer cells are the clonal progeny of an initiating variant tissue cell. Recent investigations of a variety of tumor types have shown that phenotypically identifiable and isolable subfractions of cells possess the tumor-forming ability. This feature of rare cells with tumor-forming potential dividing to produce cells with limited or no tumor forming potential is the basis for the cancer stem cell paradigm. Cancer stem cell research revived a longer-standing idea that many tumors (though not all) were likely to be the spawn of mutated tissue-specific stem cells. We will present the first phenotypic evidence to support this concept.

Biography

Caterina La Porta has completed his Ph.D at the age of 28 years from University of Milan and she is research Associate professor at the same University permanent from 2002. She is the group leader of the Molecular Oncology Laboratory at the Department of Biotechnology of the University of Milan. She has published more than 60 papers international Journals and she is in the editorial board and referee of many International Journals. She has been visiting professor in many outstanding University and she collaborates with many international laboratories in particular in the United States. For more information: www.oncolab.unimi.it