Giulia Cursano

PERSONAL PROFILE

Biologist with **MSc** in Molecular Biology and proven experience in translational research. In recent years, I have been involved in numerous **translational research studies** focused on the identification of prognostic and predictive biomarkers, mainly in breast cancer, using the state-of-the-art technologies of predictive and computational pathology. I am a determined, responsible, and willing person, with good communication skills and a propensity for team working.

Contact Info

Mobile:

E-mail:

LinkedIn:

Place of birth:

Driving license:

PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE

March 2026-Current | **Clinical Study Coordinator** at the IRCCS **Istituto Nazionale dei Tumori** – S.S. Clinical Trial Center -SC Oncologia medica 3 - Tumori Testa-Collo, Milano (MI).

April 2023-September 2025 |**Type B research fellow** at the IRCCS **Istituto Europeo di Oncologia** – Division of Pathology, Milano (MI).

PRIN: PROGETTI DI RICERCA DI RILEVANTE INTERESSE NAZIONALE – Bando 2022; Department of Oncology and Hemato- Oncology of the University of Milan.
Project *"Dissecting naïve PD-1+ T-cells phenotype to generate new biological insights of immunotherapy response in advanced NSCLC"*

Key responsibilities: Data collection and database management; Proposal Writing; Scientific Article Composition; Scientific Literature Research.
Main Laboratory Activities: Immunohistochemistry (IHC); NGS Library Preparation (from paraffin-embedded or plasma samples). Sequencing (NextSeq 500/IonS5).

April 2022-March 2023 | Research Fellowship at the IRCCS **Humanitas Research Hospital** – Laboratory of Molecular Pharmacology, Rozzano (MI).

Project *"DISCOVER-Integrated Signature Classifier to assess prognosis in stage I epithelial OVarian cancer"*
Main Laboratory Activities: microtome cutting of Formalin-Fixed Paraffin-Embedded (FFPE) tissue specimens; semi-automated extraction of nucleic acids with Maxwell® RSC Instrument; manual and automated Next-Generation Sequencing (NGS) Library Preparation.

November 2021-March 2022 | Research Fellowship at the Department of Medicine and Surgery (Laboratory of Hygiene and Public Health) – University of Parma.

Project *"Sorveglianza virologica di virus respiratori nell'ambito dell'integrazione della sorveglianza COVID-19 con la sorveglianza sentinella dell'influenza (rete InfluNet)"*
Main Activities: automated nucleic acid extraction with Nextractor® NX-48S; real-time RT-PCR; input and analysis of collected data; report writing.

IT Skills

- Office suite| Pre-run format and Sample Sheet processing for NextSeq 550 sequencing
- Collection, organization, and analysis of clinical and laboratory data for research project purposes
- Bioinformatics tools: PyMOL, ImageJ, GraphPad, cBioPortal

Language Skills

- **Italian:** mother tongue
- **English:** C1
- **Spanish:** B2

TRAINEESHIP EXPERIENCES

October 2019-March 2020 | Experimental thesis preparation abroad with the Erasmus Plus SMT program, at the **IMDEA Nanociencia Institute**, Madrid (Spain).
March-July 2017| **Curricular internship** at the University of Parma (Italy).

EDUCATION

November 2025-March 2026 | **Master in Management Farmaceutico:** Medical Scientific Liaison (MSL) e Medical Advisor (MA).
ISTUM – Istituto di Studi di Management

February 2021 | **Master's Degree in Molecular Biology** at the University of Parma. **Final mark**: 110/110 e Lode.
Thesis: "Evaluation of Cas9 gene editing activity by fluorescence microscopy of HeLa cells expressing eGFP and Cas9 conjugation with magnetic nanovehicles".

December 2017 | **Bachelor's Degree in Biology** at the University of Parma. **Final mark**: 110/110 e Lode.
Thesis: "Study of the mechanism of translation inhibition of a *Lactobacillus rhamnosus* type I toxin mRNA".

July 2014 | **High School Diploma** at Liceo scientifico G. Ulivi, Parma.

CERTIFICATIONS

[04/08/2025] **ICH Good Clinical Practice E6 (R3)**.
Obtained with Score: 100%
Link: https://globalhealthtrainingcentre.tghn.org/ich-good-clinical-practice/

[12/04/2025] Certificate of attendance as **faculty** at XI Incontro Nazionale **PMMP**, Firenze, Italy.

[28-29/10/2024] Certificate of attendance "**PRECEPTORSHIP PROSIGNA**" at Hospital Clìnic de Barcelona.

[11/04/2024] Record of Completion "**Prosigna Breast Cancer Prognostic Gene Signature Assay**".

March 2021|Certificate of attendance "**Il ruolo del CRA nella CRO**"
Link: https://www.formazionenelfarmaceutico.com/

SCIENTIFIC PUBLICATIONS

*first, co-first

1. **Cursano, G.***, Concardi, A., Ivanova, M., Frascarelli, C., Mane, E., Mangione, E., Santaguida, S., Tosoni, D., Pece, S., Marra, A., Criscitiello, C., Curigliano, G., Viale, G., Venetis, K., Guerini-Rocco, E., & Fusco, N. (2025). Inter-Assay Variability of TROP2 Immunohistochemistry in Triple-Negative Breast Cancer. Molecular Diagnosis & Therapy. doi: 10.1007/s40291-025-00814-5 I.F. 4.4

2. Venetis, K., **Cursano, G.***, Scafetta, R., Berton Giachetti, P.P.M., Concardi, A., De Camilli, E., D'Ercole, M., Mane, E., Frascarelli, C., Marra, A., Gandini, S., Pepe, F., Scagnoli, S., Rossi, S.M., Troiano, R., Speziale, E., De Angelis, C., Troncone, G., Malapelle, U., Perrone, G., Botticelli, A., Viale, G., Curigliano, G., Guerini- Rocco, E., Criscitiello, C., & Fusco, N. (2025). ESR1 testing on FFPE samples from metastatic lesions in HR + /HER2- breast cancer after progression on CDK4/6 inhibitor therapy. Breast cancer research. 27(1):79. doi: 10.1186/s13058-025-02020-x I.F. 6.1

3. Marvaso, G., Corrao, G., Zaffaroni, M., Vincini, M. G., Lorubbio, C., Gandini, S., Fodor, C., Netti, S., Zerini, D., Luzzago, S., Mistretta, F. A., Venetis, K., **Cursano, G.,** Burla, T., Mazzocco, K., Cattani, F., Petralia, G., Fusco, N., Pravettoni, G., Musi, G., … Jereczek-Fossa, B. A. (2025). ADT with SBRT versus SBRT alone for hormone-sensitive oligorecurrent prostate cancer (RADIOSA): a randomised, open-label, phase 2 clinical trial. The Lancet. Oncology, 26(3), 300–311. https://doi.org/10.1016/S1470-2045(24)00730-7 I.F. 41.6

4. Venetis, K., Frascarelli, C., Bielo, L. B., **Cursano, G.,** Adorisio, R., Ivanova, M., Mane, E., Peruzzo, V., Concardi, A., Negrelli, M., D'Ercole, M., Porta, F. M., Zhan, Y., Marra, A., Trapani, D., Criscitiello, C., Curigliano, G., Guerini- Rocco, E., & Fusco, N. (2025). Mismatch repair (MMR) and microsatellite instability (MSI) phenotypes across solid tumors: A comprehensive cBioPortal study on prevalence and prognostic impact. European journal of cancer (Oxford, England: 1990), 217, 115233. https://doi.org/10.1016/j.ejca.2025.115233 I.F. 7.6

5. Frascarelli, C., Venetis, K., Marra, A., Mane, E., Ivanova, M., **Cursano, G.,** Porta, F. M., Concardi, A., Ceol, A. G. M., Farina, A., Criscitiello, C., Curigliano, G., Guerini-Rocco, E., & Fusco, N. (2024). Deep learning algorithm on H&E whole slide images to characterize TP53 alterations frequency and spatial distribution in breast cancer. Computational and structural biotechnology journal, 23, 4252–4259. https://doi.org/10.1016/j.csbj.2024.11.037 I.F. 4.5

6. Venetis, K., Pescia, C., **Cursano, G.*,** Frascarelli, C., Mane, E., De Camilli, E., Munzone, E., Dellapasqua, S., Criscitiello, C., Curigliano, G., Guerini Rocco, E., & Fusco, N. (2024). The Evolving Role of Genomic Testing in Early Breast Cancer: Implications for Diagnosis, Prognosis, and Therapy. International journal of molecular sciences, 25(11), 5717. https://doi.org/10.3390/ijms25115717 I.F. 4.9

7. Guerini-Rocco, E., Venetis, K., **Cursano, G.,** Mane, E., Frascarelli, C., Pepe, F., Negrelli, M., Olmeda, E., Vacirca, D., Ranghiero, A., Trapani, D., Criscitiello, C., Curigliano, G., Rolfo, C., Malapelle, U., & Fusco, N. (2024). Standardized molecular pathology workflow for ctDNA-based ESR1 testing in HR+/HER2- metastatic breast cancer. Critical reviews in oncology/hematology, 201, 104427. Advance online publication. https://doi.org/10.1016/j.critrevonc.2024.104427 I.F. 5.5

8. Ivanova, M., Pescia, C., Trapani, D., Venetis, K., Frascarelli, C., Mane, E., **Cursano, G.,** Sajjadi, E., Scatena, C., Cerbelli, B., d'Amati, G., Porta, F. M., Guerini-Rocco, E., Criscitiello, C., Curigliano, G., & Fusco, N. (2024). Early Breast Cancer Risk Assessment: Integrating Histopathology with Artificial Intelligence. Cancers, 16(11), 1981. https://doi.org/10.3390/cancers16111981 I.F. 4.5

9. Pepe, F., Venetis, K., **Cursano, G.,** Frascarelli, C., Pisapia, P., Vacirca, D., Scimone, C., Rappa, A., Russo, G., Mane, E., Pagni, F., Castellano, I., Troncone, G., Angelis, C., Curigliano, G., Guerini-Rocco, E., Malapelle, U., & Fusco, N. (2024). PIK3CA testing in hormone receptor-positive/HER2-negative metastatic breast cancer: real-world data from Italian molecular pathology laboratories. Pharmacogenomics, 25(3), 161–169. https://doi.org/10.2217/pgs- 2023-0238 I.F. 2.1

10. Marchiò, C., Criscitiello, C., Scatena, C., Santinelli, A., Graziano, P., Malapelle, U., **Cursano, G.,** Venetis, K., Fanelli, G. N., Pepe, F., Berrino, E., Angelis, C., Perrone, G., Curigliano, G., & Fusco, N. (2023). Think "HER2" different: integrative diagnostic approaches for HER2-low breast cancer. Pathologica, 115(6), 292–301. https://doi.org/10.32074/1591- 951X-942 I.F. 3.5

11. Venetis, K., Pepe, F., Pescia, C., **Cursano, G.,** Criscitiello, C., Frascarelli, C., Mane, E., Russo, G., Taurelli Salimbeni, B., Troncone, G., Guerini Rocco, E., Curigliano, G., Fusco, N., & Malapelle, U. (2023). ESR1 mutations in HR+/HER2- metastatic breast cancer: Enhancing the accuracy of ctDNA testing. Cancer treatment reviews, 121, 102642. Advance online publication. https://doi.org/10.1016/j.ctrv.2023.102642 I.F. 11.8

12. Ivanova, M., Porta, F. M., D'Ercole, M., Pescia, C., Sajjadi, E., **Cursano, G.,** De Camilli, E., Pala, O., Mazzarol, G., Venetis, K., Guerini-Rocco, E., Curigliano, G., Viale, G., & Fusco, N. (2023). Standardized pathology report for HER2 testing in compliance with 2023 ASCO/CAP updates and 2023 ESMO consensus statements on HER2-low breast cancer. Virchows Archiv: an international journal of pathology, 10.1007/s00428-023-03656-w. Advance online publication. https://doi.org/10.1007/s00428-023-03656-w I.F. 4.5

13. **Cursano, G.***, Frigo, E. Sajjadi, E., Ivanova, M., Venetis, K., Guerini-Rocco, E., Criscitiello, C., Curigliano, G & Fusco, N., Trop-2 as an Actionable Biomarker in Breast Cancer, Current Genomics 2023; 24. https://dx.doi.org/10.2174/1389202924666230726112233 I.F. 2.7

14. Ranghiero, A., Frascarelli, C., **Cursano, G.,** Pescia, C., Ivanova, M., Vacirca, D., Rappa, A., Taormina, S. V., Barberis, M., Fusco, N., Rocco, E. G., & Venetis, K.* (2023). Circulating tumour DNA testing in metastatic breast cancer: Integration with tissue testing. Cytopathology: official journal of the British Society for Clinical Cytology, 10.1111/cyt.13295. Advance online publication. https://doi.org/10.1111/cyt.13295 I.F. 1.3

15. Venetis, K., **Cursano, G.,** Pescia, C., D'Ercole, M., Porta, F. M., Blanco, M. C., ... & Fusco, N. (2023). Liquid biopsy: Cell-free DNA based analysis in breast cancer. The Journal of Liquid Biopsy, 100002. No I.F.

16. Fusco, N., Ivanova, M., Frascarelli, C., Criscitiello, C., Cerbelli, B., Pignataro, M. G., Pernazza, A., Sajjadi, E., Venetis, K., **Cursano, G.,** Pagni, F., Di Bella, C., Accardo, M., Amato, M., Amico, P., Bartoli, C., Bogina, G., Bortesi, L., Boldorini, R., Bruno, S., … d'Amati, G. (2023). Advancing the PD-L1 CPS test in metastatic TNBC: Insights from pathologists and findings from a nationwide survey. Critical reviews in oncology/hematology, 190, 104103. Advance online publication. https://doi.org/10.1016/j.critrevonc.2023.104103 I.F. 6.625

17. Porta, F. M., Sajjadi, E., Venetis, K., Frascarelli, C., **Cursano, G.,** Guerini-Rocco, E., Fusco, N., & Ivanova, M. (2023). Immune Biomarkers in Triple-Negative Breast Cancer: Improving the Predictivity of Current Testing Methods. Journal of personalized medicine, 13(7), 1176. https://doi.org/10.3390/jpm13071176 I.F. 3.4

18. Ivanova, M., Porta, F. M., Giugliano, F., Frascarelli, C., Sajjadi, E., Venetis, K., **Cursano, G.,** Mazzarol, G., Guerini- Rocco, E., Curigliano, G., Criscitiello, C., & Fusco, N. (2023). Breast Cancer with Brain Metastasis: Molecular Insights and Clinical Management. Genes, 14(6), 1160. https://doi.org/10.3390/genes14061160 I.F. 3.5

Additional information

May 2025 |Attendance at **ESMO Breast Cancer 2025** as poster presenter.

May 2025 |Attendance at **ISMRC 2025** 14th International Symposium on Minimal Residual Cancer as poster presenter.

December 2024 |Attendance at San Antonio Breast Cancer Symposium (**SABCS**) **2024** as poster presenter; booth talk speaker at **Veracyte** stand; San Antonio, Texas.

November 2023 |Attendance at International Society of Liquid Biopsy (**ISLB**) **2023**; Madrid, Spain.

November 2022|Attendance at the 62nd annual Meeting of the Italian Cancer Society — **SIC**, Società Italiana di Cancerologia; Venice, Italy.

References

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Prof. Nicola Fusco, e-mail: nicola.fusco@unimi.it

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