

Identifying innovative strategies against cancer

Research is definitely passion. One goes into the laboratory in the morning hoping to find results. Each day's little results are put together to create a story and this story could lead to the development of innovative therapies and therefore to the improved survival of cancer patients.

I am Alessia Covre and I work as a researcher at the NIBIT Foundation. The NIBIT Foundation was created in 2012 and is the brainchild of NIBIT, which is the Italian Network for Cancer Bioimmunotherapy. The President is Professor Michele Maio.

The main role of the NIBIT Foundation is to perform preclinical and clinical research in the immunotherapy sector.

In recent years immunotherapy has become the fourth weapon against cancer. The mission of the NIBIT Foundation is to continue to implement the immunological monitoring of patients as well as clinical trials, to be able to highlight new therapeutic strategies that can be personalized to the patient and obviously lead to better treatments.

The last two studies sponsored by the NIBIT Foundation regard pleural mesothelioma and melanoma, and involve the use of highly innovative molecules. The one on melanoma involves the use not only of innovative molecules but also innovative strategies. In fact it is the first study in the world that combines biogenetic drugs that modify the tumor's phenotype so it can be more easily attacked by the immune system with antibodies that allow the immune system to be constantly active and therefore attack the tumor.

The possibility to have centralized laboratories as part of the Toscana Life Sciences site is obviously an advantage for us, because it allows us to use the highly innovative instruments with which the structure is equipped. Above all there is a collaboration with different groups that perhaps deal with different aspects, which makes it an absolutely rich and stimulating environment.

Research is definitely a sacrifice but also a satisfaction. Waking up in the morning and going to the laboratory, creating little results each day that then tell a story. The possibility to develop innovative strategies that can then lead to a better survival for cancer patients. So it's absolutely wonderful to do the work that I'm doing.

This is my life and I imagine my future in the laboratory, continuing to create another piece of a story to develop new strategies.