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## Molecular Research on Pancreatic Cancer: Current Trends and New Perspectives

Guest Editors:

### Dr. Cinzia Bagalà

Faculty of Medicine and Surgery,  
Fondazione Policlinico  
Universitario Agostino Gemelli  
IRCCS Università Cattolica del  
Sacro Cuore, 00168 Rome, Italy

### Dr. Marta Chiaravalli

1.Fondazione Policlinico  
Universitario Agostino Gemelli  
IRCCS Università Cattolica del  
Sacro Cuore, 00168 Rome, Italy  
2.Medical Oncology, Università  
Cattolica del Sacro Cuore, 00168  
Rome, Italy

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### Message from the Guest Editors

Over the last decade we observed a significant improvement in the prognosis of many solid tumors thanks to the advent of immunotherapy and targeted therapies expanding the therapeutic opportunities for cancer patients and realizing the promise of personalized medicine. Despite these advances, pancreatic cancer remains an incurable disease, where immune-checkpoint inhibitors and targeted drugs are generally not efficacious. For this reason, it is still perceived as a hopeless disease by both patients and physicians. More than 80% of pancreatic cancer patients are diagnosed when the tumor is in contact with vascular structures or when distant metastases are present, and thus surgical excision is not indicated. For these patients, the standard of care is palliative chemotherapy, with a median overall survival of 11 months. Since 2011, three independent studies by Collison, Moffit and Bailey identified different pancreatic cancer subtypes based on gene expression profiles, suggesting that pancreatic cancer is not a unique entity, but should be regarded as a collection of different diseases.



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### Prof. Dr. Felipe Fregni

1. Neuromodulation Center and  
Center for Clinical Research  
Learning, Spaulding  
Rehabilitation Hospital and  
Massachusetts General Hospital,  
Harvard Medical School, Boston,  
MA 02114, USA  
2. Department of Epidemiology,  
Harvard T.H. Chan School of  
Public Health, Boston, MA 02115,  
USA

## Message from the Editor-in-Chief

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*Biomedicines* Editorial Office  
MDPI, Grosspeteranlage 5  
4052 Basel, Switzerland

Tel: +41 61 683 77 34  
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