



## Pathogenesis of Pancreatic Cancer

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### Message from the Guest Editor

Dear Colleagues,

Pancreatic ductal adenocarcinoma (PDAC) is still one of the most aggressive and lethal malignancy in Western countries. PDAC cells are characterised by a tendency to infiltrate into the endothelium basement membrane and neurons and to propagate speedily to distant organs through the lymphatic system, causing metastasis. At molecular level, it is known that the activation of oncogenes, such as KRAS and NOTCH, and the blocking of tumour suppressor genes like p16, p53, SMAD4 and PTEN, are involved in the initiation and advancement of this disease. In addition, various cell signalling pathways, such as EGFR, Akt and NF- $\kappa$ B, have been found to be disrupted, contributing to PDAC evolution. Despite all these advances in the understanding of the molecular pathogenesis of PDAC, further insight in the knowledge of this disease and new efficacious therapeutic strategies are urgently required in order to improve the outcomes for PDAC patients.

The keywords of this special issue include: pancreatic cancer; pancreatic ductal enocarcinoma; molecular pathogenesis; chemotherapy; metastasis; cancer biology

Prof. Dr. Marco Falasca

*Guest Editor*





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