

MASSIMO DOMINICI

MD · Full Professor of Medical Oncology

Director, Department of Medical and Surgical Sciences · University of Modena and Reggio Emilia

Director, Division of Medical Oncology · University Hospital of Modena

Head, Laboratory of Cellular Therapies

Physician-scientist in medical oncology, hematology, and cell and gene therapy, with a long-standing record of translational research, clinical leadership, international service, and entrepreneurship.

350 MANUSCRIPTS	>63,000 CITATIONS	71 H-INDEX	14 PATENTS
>330 INVITED LECTURES	>30 FUNDED PROJECTS	>€25M FUNDING SINCE 2004	>70 SUPERVISED THESES

Academic and clinical trajectory

He graduated cum laude in Medicine and Surgery from the University of Pavia in 1996. Following training at the Hematology Institute of the University of Vienna, Austria, and at the University of Ferrara, he completed his specialization in Hematology cum laude. From 2000 to 2003, he was a postdoctoral fellow at St. Jude Children's Research Hospital in Memphis, USA.

He joined the University Hospital of Modena in 2003. In 2005, he became Assistant Professor of Medical Oncology and Head of the Laboratory of Cellular Therapies, while also serving as a physician in the Division of Oncology. He was appointed Associate Professor of Medical Oncology at UNIMORE in November 2015 and Full Professor in June 2020. Since June 2020, he has also directed the Division of Medical Oncology at the University Hospital of Modena. In November 2024, he was elected Director of the Department of Medical and Surgical Sciences at UNIMORE.

Education and mentorship

From 2007 to 2021, he served as tutor and lecturer in the PhD School of Molecular and Regenerative Medicine; since 2022, he has held the same roles in the PhD School of Clinical and Experimental Medicine. Across the two doctoral programmes, he has supervised more than 30 PhD candidates.

His teaching has included Medicine and Surgery, Medical Biotechnology, Physiotherapy, Radiology and Radiotherapy Technology, and several Master's programmes at the Universities of Modena and Reggio Emilia, Parma, and Urbino. He has supervised more than 70 theses in Medicine and Surgery, Biotechnology, and Biology. From November 2016 to October 2024, he directed the School of Specialization in Medical Oncology.

Scientific output and research leadership

His scientific output comprises 350 manuscripts in international journals, three books, and five book chapters, with more than 63,000 citations and an H-index of 71 (Google Scholar). Four additional contributions were published in interview format in Science (three) and Nature (one). He has delivered more than 330 invited lectures at national and international congresses.

As principal investigator or co-investigator, he has contributed to more than 30 nationally and internationally funded research projects, including PRIN, AIRC, Italian Ministry of Health Finalized Research, POR-FESR, FP7, Horizon 2020, Horizon Europe, IMI2, the 2017 and 2022 MIUR Departments of Excellence programmes, and two PNRR initiatives. Together with

15 biotech and pharmaceutical industry grants for third-party research contracts, these activities have generated more than €25 million in funding since 2004.

Innovation and entrepreneurship

He is the inventor or co-inventor on 14 registered patents. In 2009, he founded the university spin-off Rigenrand srl, acquired by EVOTEC SE in July 2022. In 2023, he founded EIR Biotherapies srl. He is also Scientific Coordinator of the Biocompatibility Laboratory at the Mirandola Science and Technology Park.

Scientific leadership and international service

He is a founding member and Vice-President of the Forum of Italian Researchers on Stromal and Stem Cells (FIRST). A member of the International Society for Cell & Gene Therapy (ISCT) since 2001, he held several leadership positions before becoming its first non-American President (2014–2016). He serves as editor and reviewer for numerous international journals and as an evaluator for public and private research funding bodies in Italy and abroad.

From 2011 to 2012, he represented interested parties at the European Medicines Agency's Committee for Advanced Therapies in London. From 2012 to 2014, he served on the Board of the Joint Accreditation Committee of ISCT and EBMT (JACIE), and in September 2012 he joined the Italian Ministry of Health's national commission on stem-cell use. From 2014 to 2018, he served on the Board of the Worldwide Network for Blood and Marrow Transplantation (WBMT).

From 2015 to 2019, he was a member of the Scientific and Technical Committee of the Guido Berlucci Foundation for Cancer Research; since 2015, he has supported the Association for Pediatric Oncology and Hematology (ASEOP). From 2016 to 2018, he served on the Scientific and Technical Committee of the Italian Association of Osteogenesis Imperfecta, the Scientific Council of the French Fondation des maladies chroniques et du vieillissement actif – Languedoc-Roussillon, and the International Medical Advisory Board of Canada's Stem Cell Network.

Since October 2020, he has served as an expert to the World Health Organization within the International Nonproprietary Names (INN) programme for pharmaceutical substances, with a focus on cell and gene therapies.

Awards and distinctions

2009 First prize, Modena Intraprendere competition, as founder of the academic spin-off Rigenrand srl

2012 Guido Berlucci Foundation Prize for Cancer Research

2017 Fanfullino d'Oro della Riconoscenza Award, City of Lodi

2017 Citizenship Award, Secugnago (Lodi)

2017 Pico della Mirandola International Award, Mirandola (Modena)

2017 International Award, Mashhad University

2026 International Society for Cell & Gene Therapy Career Award on cell and Gene Therapy

Professional affiliations

Member of ISCT, ESMO, AIOM, AACR, and ASCO.

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