UNIVERSITY of MARYLAND SCHOOL OF MEDICINE

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Feyruz V. Rassool, PhD

Academic Title:

Associate Professor

Primary Appointment:

Radiation Oncology

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Education and Training

Education

1979	A Levels, Camden School for Girls, London, UK
1983	B.Sc., University College London, London, UK, Honors in Human Genetics

1990 Ph.D., Royal Post-Graduate Medical School, University of London, London, UK,

Biological Sciences

Post-Graduate Education and Training

1990-1994 Post-Doctoral Fellowship, Section of Hematology/Oncology, University of Chicago

Employment History

Academic Appointment

1994-1996 Research Associate, Section of Hematology/Oncology, University of Chicago

1996-1998 Research Associate - Assistant Professor, Section of Hematology/Oncology, University of Chicago

1998-2005 Lecturer, King's College School of Medicine, Guy's Campus, London, UK

1998-2005 Head, Genomic Instability Laboratory, King's College School of Medicine, Guy's Campus, London, UK

2005-present Associate Professor, University of Maryland School of Medicine, Baltimore

2015-present Adjunct Associate Professor, VARI's Center for Epigenetics, Van Andel Research Institute, Grand Rapids, Michigan

2016 Tenure

Biosketch

Feyruz V. Rassool, PhD, received her doctorate at the Royal Postgraduate Medical School, University of London, UK. She did her postdoctoral training at the University of Chicago and assumed her first independent faculty position studying DNA damage and repair in myeloid malignancies at King's College London. She has been at the University of Maryland for the last 12 years.

She is an expert in repair of potentially lethal forms of DNA damage, DNA double-strand breaks (DSBs), that play a critical role in generating genomic instability in cancer. Her work has specifically focused on the aberrant expression and activity of these repair pathways in cancer and leukemia cells that not only play a role in genomic instability, but also appear critical for cancer cell survival. These DNA repair components are attractive therapeutic targets. Thus, Dr. Rassool's work provides a framework for the development and translation of novel therapeutic strategies for

patients with leukemia's and other cancers. Her recent work is focused on targeting DNA repair abnormalities in Cancer and leukemia.

Dr Rassool recently received the Ziskin Award to study the intersection between DNA damage and repair and epigenetic pathways in cancer and she is part of the SU2C stand-up to cancer Epigenetics Dream Team.

Studies to target acute myeloid malignancies and triple negative breast cancers with a combination of DNA repair and epigenetic inhibitors was recently published in Cancer Cell (2016). These studies are the basis for a clinical trial in AML led by Dr Maria Baer, Director of hematologic malignancies at UMGCCC.

Research/Clinical Keywords

DNA damage and repair, genomic instability, targeting DNA repair abnormalities

Highlighted Publications

Tsai HC, Li H, Van Neste L, Cai Y, Robert C, Rassool FV, Shin JJ, Harbom KM, Beaty R, Pappou E, Harris J, Yen RW, Ahuja N, Brock MV, Stearns V, Feller-Kopman D, Yarmus LB, Lin YC, Welm AL, Issa JP, Minn I, Matsui W, Jang YY, Sharkis SJ, Baylin SB, Zahnow CA. Transient low doses of DNA-demethylating agents exert durable antitumor effects on hematological and epithelial tumor cells. Cancer Cell 2012:21(3):430-46. doi: 10.1016/j.ccr. 2011.12.029. PMID: 22439938.

Tobin LA, Robert C, Rapoport AP, Gojo I, Baer MR, Tomkinson AE, Rassool FV. Targeting abnormal DNA double-strand break repair in tyrosine kinase inhibitor-resistant chronic myeloid leukemias. Oncogene 2013:32(14):1784-93. doi: 10.1038/onc.2012.203. PMID: 22641215.

Muvarak N, Kelley S, Robert C, Baer MR, Perrotti D, Gambacorti-Passarini C, Civin C, Scheibner K, Rassool FV. Role of C-MYC in DSB repair in tyrosine kinase activated leukemias. Mol Cancer Res. 2015 Apr;13(4):699-712. doi: 10.1158/1541-7786.MCR-14-0422. Epub 2015 Mar 31. PMID:25828893.

Muvarak N, Chowdhury K, Xia L, Robert C, YongE, Cai Y, Bellani M, Zou Y, Singh ZN, DuongVH, Rutherford T, Nagaria P, Bentzen SM, Seidman MM, Baer MR, Lapidus RG, BaylinSB, Rassool FV. Enhancing the Cytotoxic Effects of PARP Inhibitors with DNA Demethylating Agents - A Potential Therapy for Cancer, Cancer Cell. 2016 Oct 10;30(4):637-650. doi: 10.1016/j.ccell.2016.09.002.PMID: 27728808.

Limin Xia, Wenjie Huang, Marina Bellani, Michael M. Seidman, Kaichun Wu, Daiming Fan, Yongzhan Nie, Yi Cai, Yang W. Zhang, Li-Rong Yu, Huili Li, Cynthia A. Zahnow,Wenbing Xie, Ray-Whay Chiu Yen, Feyruz V. Rassool*, Stephen B. Baylin*. CHD4 Acts As An Oncogene With A Driver Role For Initiating And Maintaining Epigenetic Suppression of Multiple Tumor Suppressor Genes. CANCER-CELL-D-16-00726, accepted for publication.

* denotes co-senior author status.

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