

Roberta Zappasodi, PhD

Roberta Zappasodi is an Assistant Professor of Hematology in Medicine in the Division of Hematology and Medical Oncology of the Department of Medicine at the Weill Cornell Medical College (New York, NY) and Visiting Investigator at Memorial Sloan Kettering (MSK, New York, NY).

The overarching goal of her lab is to improve the understanding of the mechanisms underlying resistance to cancer immunotherapy. Specifically, her team is focused on investigating immunosuppressive CD4⁺ T-cell subsets and the way these cells interact with B cells and impact on B-cell function in response to immunotherapy with immune checkpoint blockade. In addition, she is investigating how tumor metabolism skews the microenvironment to retain immunosuppressive and/or dysfunctional T cells. She primarily studies these mechanisms in the setting of solid tumors, where the immune system and the neoplastic disease are two distinct tissue entities and aims to extend these observations to B-cell lymphomas, where the malignant disease occurs in the immune system itself.

Dr. Zappasodi's work has contributed to the identification of molecular determinants of immune and anti-tumor activity of immunotherapy and to improve our understanding of the mechanisms of action of immune checkpoint blockade therapy. Her work has been published in high impact peer review journals and recognized by several awards, including the Presidential Award of the Society for Immunotherapy of Cancer (SITC).

Dr. Zappasodi is a Bridge Fellow in the Parker Institute for Cancer Immunotherapy. She is Co-Lead of the SITC Sparkathon Team TimIOs and has served as committee member of the 35th SITC Annual Meeting.

Dr. Zappasodi completed her PhD in Tumor Immunology/Immunotherapy at the National Cancer Institute of Milan (Milan, Italy) and was the recipient of a Parker Institute for Cancer Immunotherapy Scholar Award during her post-doctoral training at MSK in the Wolchok/Merghoub group.