

CURRICULUM VITAE
Massimo Libra
Nato a Catania il 3.12.1970

Posizione professionale: Professore associato di Patologia generale presso il Dip. di Scienze Biomediche e Biotecnologiche, Università degli Studi di Catania;
Coordinatore del laboratorio di oncologia traslazionale e genomica funzionale della sezione di Patologia generale e clinica e oncologia del Dipartimento di Scienze Biomediche e Biotecnologiche, Università degli Studi di Catania.

Incarichi LILT: Componente Consiglio Direttivo della Sezione Provinciale di Catania e componente del Comitato Scientifico Regionale della Sicilia;
Responsabile del laboratorio di ricerca della LILT di Catania, atto alla definizione dei meccanismi molecolari coinvolti nella genesi e progressione dei tumori.

Percorso formativo:

1995 Laurea in Medicina e Chirurgia (Università di Catania).

1999 Diploma di specializzazione in Oncologia (Università di Catania).

2003 Diploma di Dottore di Ricerca in Oncologia (Università di Catania).

Stages formativi presso istituzioni italiane e straniere

Sin dai primi anni di corso di studi in Medicina e Chirurgia e poi da specializzando frequenta l'allora Istituto di Patologia generale dell'Università di Catania, attualmente Dipartimento di Scienze Biomediche.

Negli anni 1998-2002 trascorre un periodo di formazione, in qualità di specializzando ed in seguito di dottorando di ricerca, presso il Centro di Riferimento Oncologico (CRO) - IRCCS Istituto Nazionale Tumori di Aviano.

Successivamente frequenta, in qualità di "visiting scientist", dapprima i laboratori del Prof. James McCubrey (East Carolina University, USA) e poi quelli del Prof. Benjamin Bonavida (UCLA, USA).

PUBBLICAZIONI SCIENTIFICHE

Articoli pubblicati in *peer reviewed journals* con *impact factor*

- [1] Davis NM, Sokolosky M, Stadelman K, Abrams SL, **Libra M**, Candido S, Nicoletti F, Polesel J, Maestro R, D'Assoro A, Drobot L, Rakus D, Gizak A, Laidler P, Dulińska-Litewka J, Basecke J, Mijatovic S, Maksimovic-Ivanic D, Montalto G, Cervello M, Fitzgerald TL, Demidenko Z, Martelli AM, Cocco L, Steelman LS, McCubrey JA. Deregulation of the EGFR/PI3K/PTEN/Akt/mTORC1 pathway in breast cancer: possibilities for therapeutic intervention. *Oncotarget*. 2014 Jul 15;5(13):4603-50. [IF: 6,636]
- [2] Polesel J, Bosetti C, di Maso M, Montella M, **Libra M**, Garbeglio A, Zucchetto A, Turati F, Talamini R, La Vecchia C, Serraino D. Duration and intensity of tobacco smoking and the risk of papillary and non-papillary transitional cell carcinoma of the bladder. *Cancer Causes Control*. 2014 Sep;25(9):1151-8. [IF: 2,96]
- [3] McCubrey JA, Steelman LS, Bertrand FE, Davis NM, Sokolosky M, Abrams SL, Montalto G, D'Assoro AB, **Libra M**, Nicoletti F, Maestro R, Basecke J, Rakus D, Gizak A, Demidenko ZN,

- Cocco L, Martelli AM, Cervello M. GSK-3 as potential target for therapeutic intervention in cancer. *Oncotarget*. 2014 May 30;5(10):2881-911. [IF: 6,636]
- [4] Candido S, Maestro R, Polesel J, Catania A, Maira F, Signorelli SS, McCubrey JA, **Libra M**. Roles of neutrophil gelatinase-associated lipocalin (NGAL) in human cancer. *Oncotarget*. 2014 Mar 30;5(6):1576-94. [IF: 6,636] (USA)
- [5] Russo A, Ficili B, Candido S, Pezzino FM, Guarneri C, Biondi A, Travali S, McCubrey JA, Spandidos DA, **Libra M**. Emerging targeted therapies for melanoma treatment (Review). *Int J Oncol*. 2014; 45: 516-524. [IF: 2,657] (Greece)
- [6] Gasparotto D, Miolo G, Torrisi E, Canzonieri V, Bertola G, **Libra M**, Marzotto A, Maestro R, Buonadonna A. Improved outcome with multimodal treatment and imatinib rechallenge in advanced GIST. *Int J Colorectal Dis*. 2014 May;29(5):639-40. [IF: 2,238] (Germany)
- [7] Candido S, Rapisarda V, Marconi A, Malaponte G, Bevelacqua V, Gangemi P, Scalisi A, McCubrey JA, Maestro R, Spandidos DA, Fenga C, **Libra M**. Analysis of the B-RafV600E mutation in cutaneous melanoma patients with occupational sun exposure. *Oncol Rep*. 2014 Mar;31(3):1079-82. [IF: 2,297] (Greece)
- [8] Di Maso M, Talamini R, Bosetti C, Montella M, Zucchetto A, **Libra M**, Negri E, Levi F, La Vecchia C, Franceschi S, Serraino D, Polesel J. Red meat and cancer risk in a network of case-control studies focusing on cooking practices. *Ann Oncol*. 2013 Dec;24(12):3107-12. [IF: 7,384] (UK)
- [9] McCubrey JA, Steelman LS, Bertrand FE, Davis NM, Abrams SL, Montalto G, D'Assoro AB, **Libra M**, Nicoletti F, Maestro R, Basecke J, Cocco L, Cervello M, Martelli AM. Multifaceted roles of GSK-3 and Wnt/ β -catenin in hematopoiesis and leukemogenesis: opportunities for therapeutic intervention. *Leukemia*. 2014 Jan;28(1):15-33. [IF: 10,164] (UK)
- [10] Sonogo M, Schiappacassi M, Lovisa S, Dall'Acqua A, Bagnoli M, Lovat F, **Libra M**, D'Andrea S, Canzonieri V, Militello L, Napoli M, Giorda G, Pivetta B, Mezzanzanica D, Barbareschi M, Valeri B, Canevari S, Colombatti A, Belletti B, Del Sal G, Baldassarre G. Stathmin regulates mutant p53 stability and transcriptional activity in ovarian cancer. *EMBO Mol Med*. 2013 May;5(5):707-22. [IF: 7,795] (UK)
- [11] Cardile V, Malaponte G, Loreto C, **Libra M**, Caggia S, Trovato FM, Musumeci G. Raf kinase inhibitor protein (RKIP) and phospho-RKIP expression in melanomas. *Acta Histochem*. 2013 Oct;115(8):795-802. [IF: 1,608] (Germany)
- [12] Malaponte G, Polesel J, Candido S, Sambataro D, Bevelacqua V, Anzaldi M, Vella N, Fiore V, Militello L, Mazzarino MC, **Libra M**, Signorelli SS. IL-6-174 G > C and MMP-9-1562 C > T polymorphisms are associated with increased risk of deep vein thrombosis in cancer patients. *Cytokine*. 2013 Apr;62(1):64-9. [IF: 2,518] (USA)
- [13] Rapisarda V, Marconi A, Candido S, Nicolosi D, Salmeri M, Gangemi P, Proietti L, Spandidos DA, Bracci M, Fenga C, **Libra M**. A tailored health surveillance program unveils a case of MALT lymphoma in an HCV-positive health-care worker. *Oncol Lett*. 2013 Feb;5(2):651-654. [IF: 0,237] (Greece)
- [14] McCubrey JA, Steelman LS, Chappell WH, Sun L, Davis NM, Abrams SL, Franklin RA, Cocco L, Evangelisti C, Chiarini F, Martelli AM, **Libra M**, Candido S, Ligresti G, Malaponte G, Mazzarino MC, Fagone P, Donia M, Nicoletti F, Polesel J, Talamini R, Bäschke J, Mijatovic S, Maksimovic-Ivanic D, Michele M, Tafuri A, Dulińska-Litewka J, Laidler P, D'Assoro AB, Drobot L, Umezawa D, Montalto G, Cervello M, Demidenko ZN. Advances in targeting signal transduction pathways. *Oncotarget*. 2012 Dec;3(12):1505-21. [IF: 6,636] (USA)
- [15] Chappell WH, Abrams SL, Franklin RA, LaHair MM, Montalto G, Cervello M, Martelli AM, Nicoletti F, Candido S, **Libra M**, Polesel J, Talamini R, Milella M, Tafuri A, Steelman LS, McCubrey JA. Ectopic NGAL expression can alter sensitivity of breast cancer cells to EGFR,

- Bcl-2, CaM-K inhibitors and the plant natural product berberine. *Cell Cycle*. 2012 Dec 1;11(23):4447-61. [IF: 5,321] (USA)
- [16] Chappell WH, Abrams SL, Montalto G, Cervello M, Martelli AM, Candido S, **Libra M**, Polesel J, Talamini R, Arlinghaus R, Steelman LS, McCubrey JA. Effects of ectopic expression of NGAL on doxorubicin sensitivity. *Oncotarget*. 2012 Oct;3(10):1236-45. [IF: 6,636] (USA)
- [17] McCubrey JA, Steelman LS, Chappell WH, Abrams SL, Franklin RA, Montalto G, Cervello M, **Libra M**, Candido S, Malaponte G, Mazzarino MC, Fagone P, Nicoletti F, Bäsecke J, Mijatovic S, Maksimovic-Ivanic D, Milella M, Tafuri A, Chiarini F, Evangelisti C, Cocco L, Martelli AM. Ras/Raf/MEK/ERK and PI3K/PTEN/Akt/Mtor cascade inhibitors: how mutations can result in therapy resistance and how to overcome resistance. *Oncotarget*. 2012 Oct;3(10):1068-111. [IF: 6,636] (USA)
- [18] McCubrey JA, Steelman LS, Chappell WH, Abrams SL, Montalto G, Cervello M, Nicoletti F, Fagone P, Malaponte G, Mazzarino MC, Candido S, **Libra M**, Bäsecke J, Mijatovic S, Maksimovic-Ivanic D, Milella M, Tafuri A, Cocco L, Evangelisti C, Chiarini F, Martelli AM. Mutations and deregulation of Ras/Raf/MEK/ERK and PI3K/PTEN/Akt/mTOR cascades which alter therapy response. *Oncotarget*. 2012 Sep;3(9):954-87. [IF: 6,636] (USA)
- [19] Polesel J, Negri E, Serraino D, Parpinel M, Barzan L, **Libra M**, Bosetti C, Garavello W, Montella M, La Vecchia C, Franceschi S, Talamini R. Dietary intakes of carotenoids and other nutrients in the risk of nasopharyngeal carcinoma: a case-control study in Italy. *Br J Cancer*. 2012 Oct 23;107(9):1580-3. [IF:5,082] (UK)
- [20] Bevelacqua V, Bevelacqua Y, Candido S, Skarmoutsou E, Amoroso A, Guarneri C, Strazzanti A, Gangemi P, Mazzarino MC, D'Amico F, McCubrey JA, **Libra M**, Malaponte G. Nectin like-5 overexpression correlates with the malignant phenotype in cutaneous melanoma. *Oncotarget*. 2012 Aug;3(8):882-92. [IF: 6,636] (USA)
- [21] Leonardi GC, Candido S, Carbone M, Colaianni V, Garozzo SF, Cinà D, **Libra M**. microRNAs and thyroid cancer: biological and clinical significance (Review). *Int J Mol Med*. 2012 Nov;30(5):991-9. [IF: 1,957] (Greece)
- [22] Leonardi GC, Candido S, Carbone M, Raiti F, Colaianni V, Garozzo S, Cinà D, McCubrey JA, **Libra M**. BRAF mutations in papillary thyroid carcinoma and emerging targeted therapies (review). *Mol Med Rep*. 2012 Oct;6(4):687-94. [IF: 1,170] (Greece)
- [23] Fagone P, Donia M, Mangano K, Quattrocchi C, Mammana S, Coco M, **Libra M**, McCubrey JA, Nicoletti F. Comparative study of rapamycin and temsirolimus demonstrates superimposable anti-tumour potency on prostate cancer cells. *Basic Clin Pharmacol Toxicol*. 2013 Jan;112(1):63-9. [IF: 2,124] (UK)
- [24] Leonardi GC, Rapisarda V, Marconi A, Scalisi A, Catalano F, Proietti L, Travali S, **Libra M**, Fenga C. Correlation of the risk of breast cancer and disruption of the circadian rhythm (Review). *Oncol Rep*. 2012 Aug;28(2):418-28. [IF: 2,297] (Greece)
- [25] Signorelli SS, Anzaldi M, Fiore V, Simili M, Puccia G, **Libra M**, Malaponte G, Neri S. Patients with unrecognized peripheral arterial disease (PAD) assessed by ankle-brachial index (ABI) present a defined profile of proinflammatory markers compared to healthy subjects. *Cytokine*. 2012 Aug;59(2):294-8. [IF:2,518] (USA)
- [26] Stivala A, **Libra M**, Stivala F, Perrotta R. Breast cancer risk in women treated with augmentation mammoplasty (review). *Oncol Rep*. 2012 Jul;28(1):3-7. [IF: 2,297] (Greece)
- [27] Leonardi GC, Candido S, Cervello M, Nicolosi D, Raiti F, Travali S, Spandidos DA, **Libra M**. The tumor microenvironment in hepatocellular carcinoma (review). *Int J Oncol*. 2012 Jun; 40(6):1733-47. [IF: 2,657] (Greece)
- [28] McCubrey JA, Steelman LS, Abrams SL, Misaghian N, Chappell WH, Basecke J, Nicoletti F, **Libra M**, Ligresti G, Stivala F, Maksimovic-Ivanic D, Mijatovic S, Montalto G, Cervello M,

- Laidler P, Bonati A, Evangelisti C, Cocco L, Martelli AM. Targeting the cancer initiating cell: the ultimate target for cancer therapy. *Curr Pharm Des.* 2012;18(13):1784-95. [IF: 3,311] (Netherlands)
- [29] Bagnoli M, De Cecco L, Granata A, Nicoletti R, Marchesi E, Alberti P, Valeri B, **Libra M**, Barbareschi M, Raspagliesi F, Mezzanzanica D, Canevari S. Identification of a chrXq27.3 microRNA cluster associated with early relapse in advanced stage ovarian cancer patients. *Oncotarget.* 2011 Dec;2(12):1265-78. [IF:6,636] (USA)
- [30] Hafsi S, Pezzino FM, Candido S, Ligresti G, Spandidos DA, Soua Z, McCubrey JA, Travali S, **Libra M**. Gene alterations in the PI3K/PTEN/AKT pathway as a mechanism of drug-resistance (review). *Int J Oncol.* 2012 Mar;40(3):639-44. [IF: 2,657] (Greece)
- [31] Steelman LS, Navolanic P, Chappell WH, Abrams SL, Wong EW, Martelli AM, Cocco L, Stivala F, **Libra M**, Nicoletti F, Drobot LB, Franklin RA, McCubrey JA. Involvement of Akt and mTOR in chemotherapeutic- and hormonal-based drug resistance and response to radiation in breast cancer cells. *Cell Cycle.* 2011 Sep 1;10(17):3003-15. [IF: 5,321] (USA)
- [32] Caputo E, Maiorana L, Vasta V, Pezzino FM, Sunkara S, Wynne K, Elia G, Marincola FM, McCubrey JA, **Libra M**, Travali S, Kane M. Characterization of human melanoma cell lines and melanocytes by proteome analysis. *Cell Cycle.* 2011 Sep 1;10(17):2924-36 [IF: 5,321] (USA)
- [33] Caggia S, **Libra M**, Malaponte G, Cardile V. Modulation of YY1 and p53 expression by transforming growth factor- β 3 in prostate cell lines. *Cytokine.* 2011 Nov;56(2):403-10. [IF: 2,518] (USA)
- [34] Sokolosky ML, Stadelman KM, Chappell WH, Abrams SL, Martelli AM, Stivala F, **Libra M**, Nicoletti F, Drobot LB, Franklin RA, Steelman LS, McCubrey JA. Involvement of Akt-1 and mTOR in sensitivity of breast cancer to targeted therapy. *Oncotarget.* 2011 Jul;2(7):538-50. [IF: 6,636] (USA)
- [35] Vella N, Aiello M, Russo AE, Scalisi A, Spandidos DA, Toffoli G, Sorio R, **Libra M**, Stivala F. 'Genetic profiling' and ovarian cancer therapy (review). *Mol Med Rep.* 2011 Sep-Oct;4(5):771-7. [IF: 1,170] (Greece)
- [36] Donia M, Anzaldi M, Di Marco R, **Libra M**, Mangano K, Fagone P, Galvagna S, Di Gregorio P, Nicoletti F. Phase II study of the antiretroviral activity and safety of the glucocorticoid receptor antagonist mifepristone in HIV-1-infected patients. *Int J Mol Med.* 2011 Sep;28(3):437-42. [IF: 1,957] (Greece)
- [37] Steelman LS, Franklin RA, Abrams SL, Chappell W, Kempf CR, Bäsecke J, Stivala F, Donia M, Fagone P, Nicoletti F, **Libra M**, Ruvolo P, Ruvolo V, Evangelisti C, Martelli AM, McCubrey JA. Roles of the Ras/Raf/MEK/ERK pathway in leukemia therapy. *Leukemia.* 2011 Jul;25(7):1080-94. [IF: 10,164] (UK)
- [38] Polesel J, Franceschi S, Talamini R, Negri E, Barzan L, Montella M, **Libra M**, Vaccher E, Franchin G, La Vecchia C, Serraino D. Tobacco smoking, alcohol drinking, and the risk of different histological types of nasopharyngeal cancer in a low-risk population. *Oral Oncol.* 2011 Jun;47(6):541-5. [IF: 2,695] (UK)
- [39] Marconi A, Candido S, Talamini R, **Libra M**, Nicoletti F, Spandidos DA, Stivala F, Proietti L. Prevalence of hepatitis C virus infection among health-care workers: A 10-year survey. *Mol Med Rep.* 2010 Jul-Aug;3(4):561-4. [IF: 1,170] (Greece)
- [40] Aiello M, Vella N, Cannavò C, Scalisi A, Spandidos DA, Toffoli G, Buonadonna A, **Libra M**, Stivala F. Role of genetic polymorphisms and mutations in colorectal cancer therapy (Review). *Mol Med Rep.* 2011 Mar-Apr;4(2):203-8. [IF:1,170] (Greece)
- [41] Martelli AM, Evangelisti C, Chappell W, Abrams SL, Bäsecke J, Stivala F, Donia M, Fagone P, Nicoletti F, **Libra M**, Ruvolo V, Ruvolo P, Kempf CR, Steelman LS, McCubrey JA. Targeting the translational apparatus to improve leukemia therapy: roles of the PI3K/PTEN/Akt/mTOR pathway. *Leukemia.* 2011 Jul;25(7):1064-79. [IF:10,164] (UK)

- [42] Steelman LS, Chappell WH, Abrams SL, Kempf RC, Long J, Laidler P, Mijatovic S, Maksimovic-Ivanic D, Stivala F, Mazzarino MC, Donia M, Fagone P, Malaponte G, Nicoletti F, **Libra M**, Milella M, Tafuri A, Bonati A, Bäsecke J, Cocco L, Evangelisti C, Martelli AM, Montalto G, Cervello M, McCubrey JA. Roles of the Raf/MEK/ERK and PI3K/PTEN/Akt/mTOR pathways in controlling growth and sensitivity to therapy-implications for cancer and aging. *Aging (Albany NY)*. 2011 Mar;3(3):192-222. [IF: 4,696] (USA)
- [43] Chappell WH, Steelman LS, Long JM, Kempf RC, Abrams SL, Franklin RA, Bäsecke J, Stivala F, Donia M, Fagone P, Malaponte G, Mazzarino MC, Nicoletti F, **Libra M**, Maksimovic-Ivanic D, Mijatovic S, Montalto G, Cervello M, Laidler P, Milella M, Tafuri A, Bonati A, Evangelisti C, Cocco L, Martelli AM, McCubrey JA. Ras/Raf/MEK/ERK and PI3K/PTEN/Akt/mTOR inhibitors: rationale and importance to inhibiting these pathways in human health. *Oncotarget*. 2011 Mar;2(3):135-64. [IF: 6,636] (USA)
- [44] McCubrey JA, Steelman LS, Kempf CR, Chappell WH, Abrams SL, Stivala F, Malaponte G, Nicoletti F, **Libra M**, Bäsecke J, Maksimovic-Ivanic D, Mijatovic S, Montalto G, Cervello M, Cocco L, Martelli AM. Therapeutic resistance resulting from mutations in Raf/MEK/ERK and PI3K/PTEN/Akt/mTOR signaling pathways. *J Cell Physiol*. 2011 Nov;226(11):2762-81. [IF: 4,218] (USA)
- [45] Amoroso A, Hafsi S, Militello L, Russo AE, Souza Z, Mazzarino MC, Stivala F, **Libra M**. Understanding rituximab function and resistance: implications for tailored therapy. *Front Biosci (Landmark Ed)*. 2011 Jan 1;16:770-82. [IF: 3,286] (USA)
- [46] D'Assoro AB, Leontovich A, Amato A, Ayers-Ringler JR, Quatraro C, Hafner K, Jenkins RB, **Libra M**, Ingle J, Stivala F, Galanis E, Salisbury JL. Abrogation of p53 function leads to metastatic transcriptome networks that typify tumor progression in human breast cancer xenografts. *Int J Oncol*. 2010 Nov;37(5):1167-76. [IF: 2,657] (Greece)
- [47] Donia M, Cacopardo B, **Libra M**, Scalia G, McCubrey JA, Nicoletti F. New perspectives in HCV therapy: entry inhibitors. *Recent Pat Antiinfect Drug Discov*. 2010 Nov;5(3):181-94. [IF: 2,700] (Netherlands)
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- [51] Steelman LS, Abrams SL, Shelton JG, Chappell WH, Bäsecke J, Stivala F, Donia M, Nicoletti F, **Libra M**, Martelli AM, McCubrey JA. Dominant roles of the Raf/MEK/ERK pathway in cell cycle progression, prevention of apoptosis and sensitivity to chemotherapeutic drugs. *Cell Cycle*. 2010 Apr 15;9(8):1629-38. [IF: 5,321] (USA)
- [52] Cardile V, **Libra M**, Caggia S, Frasca G, Umezawa K, Stivala F, Mazzarino MC, Bevelacqua Y, Coco M, Malaponte G. Dehydroxymethylepoxyquinomicin, a novel nuclear factor-kappaB inhibitor, prevents inflammatory injury induced by interferon-gamma and histamine in NCTC 2544 keratinocytes. *Clin Exp Pharmacol Physiol*. 2010 Jul;37(7):679-83. [IF: 2,160] (Australia)
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- mediators in interleukin-1beta-induced human chondrocytes. *Cell Physiol Biochem.* 2010;25(4-5):543-50. [IF:3,415] (Switzerland)
- [54] McCubrey JA, Steelman LS, Abrams SL, Chappell WH, Russo S, Ove R, Milella M, Tafuri A, Lunghi P, Bonati A, Stivala F, Nicoletti F, **Libra M**, Martelli AM, Montalto G, Cervello M. Emerging MEK inhibitors. *Expert Opin Emerg Drugs.* 2010 Jun;15(2):203-23. [IF: 2,483] (UK)
- [55] Mijatovic S, Maksimovic-Ivanic D, Timotijevic G, Miljkovic D, Donia M, **Libra M**, Coco M, McCubrey J, Al-Abed Y, Korac A, Stosic-Grujicic S, Nicoletti F. Induction of caspase-independent apoptotic-like cell death of mouse mammary tumor TA3Ha cells in vitro and reduction of their lethality in vivo by the novel chemotherapeutic agent GIT-27NO. *Free Radic Biol Med.* 2010 Apr 15;48(8):1090-9. [IF: 5,271] (USA)
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- [62] **Libra M**, Torrisi E. BRAF and RKIP aberrations in actinic keratosis and non-melanoma skin cancers. *Cell Cycle.* 2009 May;8(9):1305. [IF: 5,321] (USA) (USA)
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