

Susanna Chiocca was born in Padua, Italy. She obtained her Bachelor of Science (BS) from the University of Texas, El Paso, Texas (UTEP). In 1990 she received her PhD from the University of Texas Graduate School of Biomedical Science, MD Anderson Cancer Center, studying viral RNA splicing. Susanna Chiocca then pursued her postdoctoral studies on cancer and viruses at the Swiss Institute of Experimental Research (ISREC) in Lausanne, Switzerland and at the Research Institute for Molecular Pathology (IMP), in Vienna, Austria. In 1998 she moved to Milano, Italy to the European Institute of Oncology (IEO). In 2005, she became an independent Group Leader at IEO and since 2015 she is a IEO Unit Director. Her research interests focus on viruses and cancer. During her post-doctoral training at the IMP, she discovered the Gam1 viral gene and used it initially as a viral model to provide a significant appreciation of the regulation of cellular post-translational modification pathways by viruses and how this in turn impacts protein function. This has led her and her group to further investigate how viral oncoproteins regulate cellular post-translational modification pathways and provide new critical signals in viral-induced carcinogenesis. She will discuss this in her talk, entitled “Autophagy and SUMOylation: Novel Insights into Viral-Mediated Tumorigenesis”.