



Emilia Di Francesco, PhD

Associate Director,
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*Preclinical and Clinical PK/PD/Efficacy Work on the OxPhos Inhibitor
IACS-010759, Targeting Metabolic Vulnerabilities in Cancer*

Emilia Di Francesco is the Associate Director of Medicinal Chemistry at the Institute of Applied Cancer Science (IACS) at MD Anderson Cancer Center. She is an experienced medicinal chemist with 20 years' experience in Pharma and Biotech-like organizations. Prior to IACS, she worked across several research sites of Merck Research Laboratories and led medicinal chemistry projects in several different therapeutic areas, including antiviral and oncology. She has contributed to the discovery of two approved medicines, Raltegravir, the first in class HIV integrase inhibitor, and Grazoprevir, a second-generation HCV protease inhibitor. Together with the team at IACS, her research focuses on the discovery and development of novel small molecule cancer therapeutics, with a focus in the areas of cancer metabolism, epigenetics and DNA damage response. The first of these molecules to reach the clinic is IACS-10759, a novel inhibitor of Complex I in the mitochondrial electron chain which is currently in Phase I for treatment of OxPhos dependent tumors.

Di Francesco received her Master's Degree in Organic Chemistry from the University of Rome La Sapienza and her PhD from the University of Cambridge, UK, under the supervision of Prof. Ian Paterson.