

Elisabetta Leo, PhD Principal Scientist Development of AZD5305, The Next Generation PARP1 Selective

Development of AZD5305, The Next Generation PARP1 Selective Inhibitor and Trapper

Since she joined AstraZeneca in 2016, Dr Elisabetta Leo has served as the preclinical lead for olaparib (Lynparza) and headed the drug discovery campaing that led to AZD5305, the next generation PARPi currently in Phase 1.

Dr Leo trained as medicinal chemist at the University of Padova, Italy and achieved a PhD in Molecular Pharmacology in 2003, with a study on topoisomerases as targets of drugs at the University of London, UK.

With a postdoctoral position in the University College London (UK), she studied the role of proteins involved in the early stages of DNA replication and their application in translational science. She then moved to Centre for Cancer Research, NCI, NIH, Bethesda, MD, where she focussed on DNA Damage Response (DDR) pathways. Her work shed light to the molecular mechanism of action of novel antiproliferative drugs as well as on the discovery and validation of SLFN11 as novel biomarker for anticancer therapies based on DNA damaging agents.

In 2012 Dr Leo joined the Institute for Applied Cancer Sciences at the MD Anderson Cancer Center (Houston, TX); there, she worked with multidisciplinary teams to discover and develop effective anticancer agents targeting epigenetics and the DDR pathways, as well as to evaluate novel strategies for patient stratification in the clinic.

AstraZeneca Early Oncology