



LAURA SOUCEK'S BIO

Laura Soucek graduated in Biological Sciences at the University La Sapienza, Rome (Italy) in 1996. She was then awarded her PhD in Genetics and Molecular Biology in 2001. She was a postdoctoral fellow and Assistant Researcher in Dr. Gerard Evan's laboratory at the University of California San Francisco (UCSF, USA) until 2011. Since then, she has been leading the Mouse Models of Cancer Therapies Laboratory at the Vall d'Hebron Institute of Oncology (VHIO), in Barcelona, Spain, where she is also ICREA Research Professor and Associate Professor at the Universidad Aut3noma de Barcelona (UAB). She is a cancer research expert specialized in Myc inhibition strategies, as well as founder and CEO of Peptomyc S.L., a spin off company that aims at treating cancer with anti-Myc peptides. The company was founded in December 2014 and it is based on her scientific research in Omomyc (the best direct Myc inhibitor known to date) over the last twenty years.

Currently, cancer incidence in the world exceeds 18 million cases per year and results in 9,5 million deaths annually. At the moment, standard therapies include surgery, radiotherapy, chemotherapy, and, in a restricted subset of cancers, precision medicine. Unfortunately, very often these therapies fail, due to the development of resistance.

Peptomyc has adopted a different strategy based on the inhibition of the oncoprotein Myc, which is found deregulated in the majority of human cancers. Myc holds a non-redundant function in cancer around which tumors cannot evolve, hence targeting Myc is the most promising therapeutic opportunity to date. Although Myc plays a central role in cancer there is currently no Myc inhibitor in the market.

