



UNIVERSITÀ  
DEGLI STUDI  
DI PADOVA

H2020  
PROJECTS FUNDED AT THE UNIVERSITY OF PADOVA

**MELASTOP** - Discovery of mevalonate and UBIAD1 inhibitors as novel drugs targeting melanoma skin cancer

Targeted therapies use drugs that reduce the growth and spread of cancer cells via the inhibition of specific proteins or pathways. Recent studies have shown that melanoma targeted therapies based on BRAF and MEK inhibitors increase reactive oxygen species in melanoma, resulting in activation of antioxidant mechanisms that keep tumour cellular redox state below a deadly threshold. The removal of antioxidants could be exploited for therapeutic benefits. Previously, the research team of the EU-funded MELASTOP project discovered that the mevalonate metabolic pathways have antioxidant properties and are critical regulators of oxidative stress in pathological conditions, including melanoma progression. Now, the project aims to validate the repositioning of the existing mevalonate pathway inhibitors as novel therapeutic drugs to treat melanoma resistance.

**ERC Grantee:** Massimo Santoro

**Department:** Biology

**Coordinator:** Università degli Studi di Padova

**Total EU Contribution:** Euro 150.000

**Call ID:** ERC- 2020- PoC

**Project Duration in months:** 30

**Start Date:** 01/07/2021

**End Date:** 31/12/2022

**Find out more:** <https://cordis.europa.eu/en>