

PAOLO MICHIELI, PHD

Tenured Researcher, University of Torino Molecular Biotechnology Center

Via Nizza 52, 10126 Torino, Italy
paolo.michieli@unito.it

Founder and Chief Scientific Officer, AgomAb Therapeutics NV

Rooseveltlaan 348, 9000 Gent, Belgium
paolo.michieli@agomab.com

Founder and Chief Operating Officer, EuremAb Srl

Corso Vittorio Emanuele II 44, I-10123 Torino, Italy
paolo.michieli@euremab.com



- **30 years of translational research** with sound record of scientific publications and patent inventorship
- **Strong leadership capability** proven by >20 years of laboratory fellows supervision and coaching
- **Scientific creativity blended with entrepreneurial spirit** demonstrated by successful translation of inventive ideas into operative businesses
- **Global outlook and culture** documented by international work experience and training, multiple trans-border collaborations and foundation of a successful multi-country biotech enterprise

PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE

- Oct 2020-present: **Principal Investigator, Molecular Biotechnology Center, University of Torino** (Torino, Italy). Research area: Engineered growth factor receptor agonists for regenerative medicine. Major achievements: Discovery of a panel of HGF-mimetic agonistic antibodies endowed with pro-regenerative, anti-inflammatory and anti-fibrotic properties; 24 patent applications, 2 granted patents; 3 research papers.
- Jun 2017-present: **Founder and Chief Scientific Officer, AgomAb Therapeutics NV** (Gent, Belgium). Business area: AgomAb is a leader in growth factor therapeutics. Major achievements: \$140M raised from top-tier investors; pipeline expanded to two growth factor platforms (HGF and TGF- β), each with multiple clinical and/or preclinical assets; experienced international leadership team recruited with proven R&D and corporate expertise.
- May 2016-present: **Founder and Chief Operating Officer, EuremAb Srl** (Torino, Italy). Business area: Contract research organization (CRO). Major achievements: EuremAb established as the principal biological CRO of AgomAb.
- Dec 2011-present: **Tenured Researcher, Department of Oncology, University of Torino** (Torino, Italy). Research area: Growth factor biology. Major achievements: Pioneering reverse-oncology for regenerative medicine targets, with particular reference to the HGF/MET pathway.
- Jul 2007-Jun 2010: **Director, Center for Comparative Oncology, Institute for Cancer Research and Treatment** (Candiolo, Torino, Italy). Research area: Oncology. Major achievements: Start-up, organization and direction of a large animal facility for oncological research.
- Nov 1996-Sep 2020: **Head, Laboratory of Experimental Therapy, Institute for Cancer Research and Treatment** (Candiolo, Torino, Italy). Research area: Targeted therapy of cancer. Major achievements: Druggable link discovered between hypoxia and metastasis (>1000 citations); 1 antagonistic mAb in the clinic and 1 in pre-clinical development; 45 patent applications, 43 granted patents; 23 research papers; 12 major research grants awarded.
- Aug 1992-Oct 1996: **Visiting Fellow, Laboratory of Cellular and Molecular Biology, National Cancer Institute, National Institutes of Health** (Bethesda, MD). Research area: Interplay between growth factor pathways and cell cycle regulators and its role in human cancer. Major achievements: 9 research papers; link discovered between growth factors and p53 responsive genes (>800 citations); 1 Technology Transfer Award.

- Sep 1991-Jun 1992: **Associate Scientist, Laboratory of Enzymology, Biochemistry Department, Glaxo Research Laboratories** (Verona, Italy). Research area: Neuropharmacology. Major achievement: Set up of a neuronal cell-based assay for screening drugs targeting the NMDA metabotropic receptor.
- Sep 1990-Sep 1991: **Research Fellow, Division of Experimental Oncology, Istituto Nazionale dei Tumori** (Milano, Italy). Research area: Role of p53 tumor suppressor gene mutations in the etiology of thyroid cancer. Major achievement: 2 research papers.
- Jul 1988-Jul 1990: **Undergraduate student, Molecular Biology Unit, “Mario Negri” Research Institute for Pharmacology** (Milano, Italy). Research area: Protein engineering. Major responsibility: Site-directed mutagenesis of L/B/K-type alkaline phosphatase.

ENTREPRENEURIAL ACTIVITY

- Jun 2017: **Foundation of AgomAb Therapeutics NV** (Gent, Belgium). AgomAb is a limited responsibility Belgian biotech company focusing on growth factor therapeutics. It has raised \$140M (seeding, \$1M; series A, \$25M; series B, \$74M; series B extension, \$40M) from top-tier investors including Pfizer, Boehringer Ingelheim, Redmile, Cormorant, Pontifax, Andera, Omnes, AdBio, V-Bio, Asabys, Walleye. In 2021 it acquired Origo Biopharma (Barcelona, Spain). It has 2 proprietary platforms targeting the TGF- β pathway (small molecules) and the HGF pathway (antibodies), respectively. AgomAb was recently selected as one of Fierce Biotech's “Fierce 15” Companies of 2022.
- May 2016: **Foundation of EuremAb Srl** (Torino Italy). EuremAb is a limited responsibility Italian biotech company and a spinoff of the University of Torino. Initially founded on a panel of HGF-mimetic agonistic antibodies for regenerative medicine, it subsequently transferred all IP to AgomAb Therapeutics, becoming a contract research organization (CRO). Today, EuremAb specializes on launching early-stage biotech companies from Italy and Europe.

EDUCATION

- Sep 2003-Jan 2008: **Ph.D. in Cellular Sciences and Technologies** – University of Torino (Torino, Italy). Thesis: “Targeting tumor hypoxia by myoglobin gene transfer”.
- Nov 1996-Nov 2001: **Specialty Degree in Clinical Pathology – 70/70 cum laude** – University of Torino (Torino, Italy). Thesis: “Engineering of a recombinant scatter factor that prevents iatrogenic damage induced by chemotherapeutic drugs without inducing invasive growth”.
- Sep 1983-Jul 1990: **M.Sc. in Biological Sciences – 110/110 cum laude** – University of Milano (Milano, Italy). Thesis: “In vitro mutagenesis of murine liver/bone/kidney alkaline phosphatase: effect of mutations on the catalytic activity of the enzyme”.

LANGUAGE SKILLS

Italian, mother tongue; **English**, full professional proficiency; **Swedish**, limited working proficiency; **German**, limited working proficiency; **French**, elementary proficiency.

PUBLICATIONS AND PATENTS

43 peer-reviewed publications; 5,001 citations by 4,299 documents (h-index: 28); 69 patent applications; 45 granted patents. [See Appendix I for a list of selected publications and patents.](#)

(updated on January 27, 2023)

SELECTED PUBLICATIONS

[Scopus author ID: 6601976615; ORCID ID: 0000-0002-3093-8871]

1. Selma Pennacchietti, Manuela Cazzanti, Andrea Bertotti, William M. Rideout III, May Han, Jenő Gyuris, Timothy Perera, Paolo M. Comoglio, Livio Trusolino, Paolo Michieli. Microenvironment-derived HGF overcomes genetically determined sensitivity to anti-MET drugs. *Cancer Research* **74**, 6598-6609 (2014).
2. Cristina Basilico, Anna Hultberg, Christophe Blanchetot, Natalie de Jonge, Els Festjens, Valérie Hanssens, Sjudry-Ilona Osepa, Gitte De Boeck, Alessia Mira, Manuela Cazzanti, Virginia Morello, Torsten Dreier, Michael Saunders, Hans de Haard, Paolo Michieli. Four individually druggable MET hotspots mediate HGF-driven tumor progression. *Journal of Clinical Investigation* **124**, 3172-3186 (2014).
3. Cristina Basilico, Selma Pennacchietti, Elisa Vigna, Cristina Chiriaco, Sabrina Arena, Alberto Bardelli, Donatella Valdembri, Guido Serini, Paolo Michieli. Tivantinib (ARQ197) displays cytotoxic activity that is independent of its ability to bind MET. *Clinical Cancer Research* **19**, 2381-2392 (2013).
4. Maria Galluzzo, Selma Pennacchietti, Stefania Rosano, Paolo M. Comoglio, Paolo Michieli. Prevention of hypoxia by myoglobin expression in human tumor cells promotes differentiation and inhibits metastasis. *Journal of Clinical Investigation* **119**, 865-875 (2009).
5. Cristina Basilico, Addolorata Arnesano, Maria Galluzzo, Paolo M. Comoglio, Paolo Michieli. A high affinity HGF-binding site in the immunoglobulin-like region of Met. *Journal of Biological Chemistry* **283**, 21267-21277 (2008).
6. Paolo Michieli, Massimiliano Mazzone, Cristina Basilico, Silvia Cavassa, Antonino Sottile, Luigi Naldini, Paolo M. Comoglio. Targeting the tumor and its microenvironment by a dual-function decoy Met receptor. *Cancer Cell* **6**, 61-73 (2004).
7. Massimiliano Mazzone, Cristina Basilico, Silvia Cavassa, Selma Pennacchietti, Mauro Risio, Luigi Naldini, Paolo M. Comoglio, Paolo Michieli. An uncleavable form of pro-Scatter Factor suppresses tumor growth and dissemination in mice. *Journal of Clinical Investigation* **114**, 1418-1432 (2004).
8. Selma Pennacchietti*, Paolo Michieli*, Maria Galluzzo, Massimiliano Mazzone, Silvia Giordano Paolo M. Comoglio (*equal contributors). Hypoxia promotes invasive growth by transcriptional activation of the met proto-oncogene. *Cancer Cell* **3**, 347-361 (2003).
9. Paolo Michieli, Silvia Cavassa, Annarita De Luca, Cristina Basilico, Massimiliano Mazzone, Cinzia Asti, Riccardo Chiusaroli, Mario Guglielmi, Paola Bossù, Francesco Colotta, Gianfranco Caselli, Paolo M. Comoglio. An HGF-MSP chimera disassociates the trophic properties of scatter factors from their pro-invasive activity. *Nature Biotechnology* **20**, 488-495 (2002).
10. Paolo Michieli, Marcio Chedid, David Lin, Jacalyn H. Pierce, W. Edward Mercer, David Givol. Induction of Waf1/Cip1 by a p53 independent pathway. *Cancer Research* **54**, 3325-3643 (1994).

(updated on January 27, 2023)

SELECTED PATENTS

[<https://www.lens.org/lens/search/patent/structured> michieli paolo inventor]

1. US 201716313710 A (2021). Anti-MET antibodies and uses thereof. Inventors: Michieli Paolo. Applicant: AgomAb Therapeutics NV. Granted Patent.
2. US 202016921695 A (2021). Methods for promoting pancreatic islet cell growth. Inventors: Michieli Paolo. Applicant: AgomAb Therapeutics NV. Amended Application.
3. US 201916959713 A (2021). HGF-MET agonist for use in the treatment of cancer and colorectal fibrosis. Inventors: Michieli Paolo. Applicant: AgomAb Therapeutics NV. Patent Application.
4. US 201314098849 A (2018). Anti c-Met antibodies. Inventors: Hultberg Anna, Saunders Michael, De Haard Johannes, Festjens Els, De Jonge Natalie, Michieli Paolo, Basilico Cristina, Dreier Torsten. Applicant: Argenx BV. Granted Patent.
5. US 201113288587 A (2017). C-Met antibody combinations. Hultberg Anna, Saunders Michael, De Haard Johannes, Festjens Els, De Jonge Natalie, Michieli Paolo, Basilico Cristina, Dreier Torsten. Applicant: Argenx BV. Granted Patent.
6. US 201414758079 A (2018). Antibody fragments, compositions and uses thereof. Inventors: Vigna Elisa, Michieli Paolo, Comoglio Paolo Maria. Applicants: Methersis Translational Research SA, Metis Precision Medicine SB Srl. Granted Patent.
7. US 9310377 B2 (2016). High affinity binding site of HGFR and methods for identification of antagonists thereof. Basilico Cristina, Michieli Paolo, Carminati Paolo, Comoglio Paolo Maria. Applicant: Methersis Translational Research SA. Granted Patent.
8. US 60104000 A (2004). Recombinant proteins from HGF and MSP. Medico Enzo, Michieli Paolo, Collesi Chiara, Caselli Gianfranco, Comoglio Paolo. Applicant: Dompè SpA. Granted Patent.

(updated on January 27, 2023)