

CURRICULUM VITAE

Name: Dr. Ralph Markus Wirtz

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Birth Date: 14. Dezember 1969 in Bad Honnef

School:

1976-1980 Basic School at Bad Honnef near Bonn

1980-1989 Private Gymnasium Nonnenwerth near Bad Honnef

Academia:

1990-1992 Pre-Diploma for Biology at University of Mainz

1992-1995 Diploma for Biology at the University of Bonn with specialization in cell biology, genetics and biochemistry. Diploma thesis at the Institute for cell biology in the group of Prof. Dr. Volker Herzog investigating thyroid hormone effects on the metabolism of cells.

Conceptual work on hormone function governing the Warburg effect during tumor promotion.

1995-2000 Scientific Assistant in the working group of Prof. Walter Birchmeier at the Max-Delbrück-Zentrum für Molekulare Medizin in Berlin-Buch to identify new interaction partners of β -Catenin and dissect its role in the Wnt-signalling cascade.

Performing own research work (identification of genetic interaction partners in oncogenic signalling pathways, cloning of new genes, transfection studies, mutation and expression analysis, DNA/RNA/protein analysis). Analysis of receptor tyrosine kinase and stem cell activities in cancer cells. Publication of results in Science.

2001 Ph.D. thesis „Interaction of the Wnt-signalling component β -Catenin with the SWI/SNF chromatin remodelling complex and its relevance in rhabdoid tumors“

Industry:**2000-2006**

Principal Scientist and laboratory head at Bayer HealthCare AG in the context of biomarker research accompanying clinical trials.

Establishing of new molecular techniques to analyze clinical routine specimen to enable transfer from "bench to bedside".

RNA and DNA analysis from formaline fixed, paraffin embedded tumor tissue samples. Automated multimarker analysis based on IHC and FISH in cervical smears and tumor tissues. Establishing of adenoviral transfection systems to identify tumor cells in blood samples.

2007-2010

Laboratory head and project leader at Siemens Healthcare Diagnostics Products GmbH in the area of translational research.

Identification and validation of prognostic and predictive gene signatures in clinical trials of diverse cancer indications (breast, colon, ovary, lung, head and neck).

BioTech:**Since Sep 2010**

Founder & CEO of STRATIFYER Molecular Pathology GmbH

Head, Department of Molecular Pathology at the Institute of Pathology at the St. Elisabeth-Hospital of the University of Cologne

Development of fully automated tissue preparation and molecular analysis tools to perform gene signature analysis and whole genome analysis of DNA, RNA and miRNA in the context of research and clinical routine pathologies.

Honours:

Distinction by the breast cancer patient organization "mamazone" for cancer research and design of improved cancer follow-up strategies (2009)

Distinction by the University of Bologna for scientific excellence (2009)

Science & Innovation Award for "Molecular Test for improved Diagnosis and Treatment of Cancer Patients" (2008)

Darb-Esfahani S, Wirtz R et al. Estrogen receptor 1 mRNA is a prognostic factor in ovarian carcinoma: determination by kinetic PCR in formalin-fixed paraffin-embedded tissue. *Endocrine Relat Cancer* 2009 Aug 12.

Zamagni C, Wirtz RM, De Iaco P, Veltrup E, Sehouli J, Dietel M, Rosati M, Denkert C, Martoni A – Estrogen receptor 1 mRNA predicts survival after neoadjuvant chemotherapy in ovarian cancer – determination by array and kinetic PCR in fresh tissue biopsies. *Endocrine Relat Cancer* 2009 Sep 11.

Publications:

1. Razis E, et al. Improved outcome of high-risk early HER2 positive breast cancer with high CXCL13-CXCR5 messenger RNA expression. Clin Breast Cancer. 2012 Jun(3):183-93.
2. Milde-Langosch K, et al. Validity of the proliferation markers Ki67, TOP2A, and RACGAP1 in molecular subtypes of breast cancer. Breast Cancer Res Treat 2012
3. Fountzilas G, et al. HER2 and TOP2A in high-risk breast cancer patients treated with adjuvant epirubicine-based dose-dense sequential chemotherapy. J Transl Med 2012 Jan 12;10(1):10.
4. Noske A, et al. Comparison of different approaches for assessment of HER2 expression on protein and mRNA level: prediction of chemotherapy response in the neoadjuvant GeparTrio trial (NCT00544765). Breast Cancer Res Treat. 2011 Feb; 126(1): 109-17. Epub2010 Dec 29.