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Curriculum vitae

Riccardo Mezzadra was born on February, the 5th 1985 in Milan, Italy. In 2004 he completed secondary education at the scientific high school "Alessandro Volta" in Milan, Italy. The same year he started his bachelor studies in medical and pharmaceutical biotechnology at Vita-Salute San Raffaele University, in Milan, Italy. He graduated in 2007 with a thesis work based on the analysis of integration sites of lentiviral vectors in hematopoietic stem cells, in order to understand potential genotoxicity aspect of gene therapy approaches for β thalassemia under the supervision of Professor Giuliana Ferrari. Also in 2007, he started his master in medical, molecular and cellular biotechnology still at Vita-Salute San Raffaele University. He graduated in 2010 with a work once again performed under the supervision of Professor Giuliana Ferrari, in which he was exploring how lentiviral integration can affect the expression of neighboring genes, still to understand potential genotoxicity aspect of gene therapy approaches for β thalassemia. From 2006 till the end of his undergraduate studies, he constantly attended the laboratory of Giuliana Ferrari as a volunteer student, in which he developed a strong fascination for genetic manipulation. Also during that time, he contributed to the identification of aberrant splicing as a previously unappreciated mechanism of potential gene therapy-related genotoxicity. In 2010 he started his PhD work in the lab of Ton Schumacher at the Netherlands Cancer Institute in Amsterdam, the Netherlands. Results of his PhD studies are presented in this thesis. Riccardo will follow his interest for genetic manipulation, cancer and immunology in the laboratory of Scott Lowe, at Memorial Sloan Kettering Cancer Center, in New York, USA, where he will be studying microenvironmental components of tumor in spontaneous models of cancer.
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