Professor Hemant Kocher

Barts Cancer Institute
Queen Mary University of London

Research Interests

My research interest is pancreatic cancer, specifically the intense stromal reaction in the surrounding tissue and its interaction with the pancreatic cancer cells.

Current research directions include:

- Investigating the role of pancreatic stellate cells, which become activated in pancreatic cancer into highly proliferative myofibroblast-like cells.
- Developing organotypic pancreatic cancer models (three-dimensional in vitro systems for exploring interactions of the stroma with pancreatic cancer cells)
- Developing novel diagnostic and therapeutic strategies by understanding pancreatic cancer stromal biology

As a surgeon, I am also interested in clinical trials and epidemiology in hepato-biliary-pancreatic disorders and surgical development. My clinical practice is at the Royal London Hospital.

Major Funders

- EPSRC HealthTech & Medicines KTN
- NHS Research Capacity Development (now NIHR)
- Pancreatic Cancer Research Fund
- Royal College of Surgeons

Contact Details

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Recent Publications

- Kadaba R, Birke H, Wang J, Hooper S, Andl CD, Di Maggio F, Soylu E, Ghallab M, Bor D, Froeling FE, Bhattacharya S, Rustgi AK, Sahai E, Chelala C, Sasieni P, **Kocher HM**. Imbalance of desmoplastic stromal cell numbers drives aggressive cancer processes. J Pathol. 2013 May;230(1):107-17.

- Froeling FE, Feig C, Chelala C, Dobson R, Mein CE, Tuveson DA, Clevers H, Hart IR, **Kocher HM.** Retinoic acid-induced pancreatic stellate cell quiescence reduces paracrine Wnt-β-catenin signaling to slow tumor progression. *Gastroenterology* 2011 Oct; 141(4): 1486-97.

- Froeling FE, Mirza TA, Feakins RM, Seedhar A, Elia G, Hart IR, **Kocher HM**. Organotypic culture model of pancreatic cancer demonstrates that stromal cells modulate E-cadherin, beta-catenin, and Ezrin expression in tumor cells. *Am J Pathol* 2009 Aug; 175(2): 636-48.

- **Kocher HM**, Sandle J, Mirza TA, Li NF, Hart IR. Ezrin interacts with cortactin to form podosomal rosettes in pancreatic cancer cells. *Gut* 2009 Feb; 58(2): 271-84.