

Curriculum Vitae

Rajkumar Savai Professor. Dr. biol. hom
d.o.b. January 04th, 1976, in Warangal, India

University Education

2018 Habilitation, Internal medicine, Justus-Liebig-Universität Giessen, Germany
2002 – 2006 Promotion studies for Dr. biol. hom, Department of Internal Medicine, Justus Liebig University Giessen, Germany
1997 – 1999 Master of Science (MSc in Biochemistry) at the Kakatiya University, Warangal, India
1994 – 1997 Bachelor of Science (BSc) at the Kakatiya University, Warangal, India

Work experience

Since 2020 Professor (W3) and Chair for Lung Microenvironmental Niche in Cancerogenesis, Institute for Lung Health (ILH), Justus Liebig University Giessen
Since 2020 Oncology Research Unit head at Medical Clinic V, University Hospital of Giessen and Marburg, Germany
Since 2010 Group Leader, Molecular Mechanisms in Lung Cancer, Max Planck Institute for Heart and Lung Research, Bad Nauheim and Germany
2009-2010 Junior Group Leader, Department of Internal Medicine, Justus Liebig University Giessen
2006-2009 Postdoctoral fellow, Department of Oncology and Hematology, Justus Liebig University Giessen, Germany

Research activities/ qualifications

Since 2021 Distinguished Visiting Professor, University of Michigan, USA
Since 2021 Planning Committee member of Thoracic Oncology Assembly, American Thoracic Society (ATS)
Since 2020 Co-speaker of the LOEWE-Initiative iCANx: Cancer – Lung (Disease) Crosstalk: Tumor and Organ Microenvironment
Since 2019 Executive Committee member of Thoracic Oncology, American Thoracic Society (ATS)
2019-2021 Task force member of Lung cancer– Translational Research, national Network Genomic Medicine (nNGM) Lung Cancer
Since 2019 Scientific Coordinator of the lung cancer disease area, German Center for Lung Research (DZL)
Since 2019 Project leader, BMBF KMU Innovative Project
Since 2019 Faculty member of the JLU Clinician Scientist Program in Biomedical Research funded by the German Research Council (DFG)
2018 Visiting professor, Earle A. Chiles Research Institute, Robert W. Franz Cancer Center, Providence Portland Medical Center. Portland, USA

Awards and Honors

2020 Awarded Heisenberg-Professor, German Research Foundation (DFG)
2018 Award from the Giessen Cancer Association
2017 Early Career Achievement Award from the American Thoracic Society (ATS), Washington, DC
2016 Excellent rating for research performance from the Max Planck Institute's Scientific Advisory Board
2016 Dr. Herbert Stolzenberg Award for the best research in the medical faculty, Justus Liebig University Giessen
2015 Sir John Vane Grant for the best recent publication in pulmonary vascular research
2013 Award from the Giessen Cancer Association
2013 Award from the Rene Baumgart Foundation for the best research in vascular biology
2012 International Innovator at the Global Meet of the Biologists, India
2008 Travel Award from the German Research Foundation (DFG)
2006 An EACR-19 meeting bursary, EACR-19, Budapest, Hungary
1999 Received merit scholarship for distinction in masters (MSc)

Citation Record

Total citations: 6,693; h-index:44 (Google Scholar August 4th, 2022)

Top-10 selected Publications

Eul B, Cekay M, Pullamsetti SS, Tello K, Wilhelm J, Gattenlöhner S, Sibelius U, Grimminger F, Seeger W, **Savai R**. Non-invasive Surrogate Markers of PH are Associated with Poor Survival in Lung Cancer Patients. **Am J Respir Crit Care Med**. 2021; 203(10):1316-1319. doi: 10.1164/rccm.202005-2023LE.

Zheng X, Weigert W, Reu S, Guenther S, Mansouri S, Bassaly B, Gattenlöhner S, Grimminger F, Pullamsetti SS, Seeger W, Winter H, **Savai R**. Spatial Density and Distribution of Tumor-Associated Macrophages Predict Survival in Non-Small-Cell Lung Carcinoma. **Cancer Res**. 2020 Oct 15;80(20):4414-4425. DOI: 10.1158/0008-5472.CAN-20-0069

El-Nikhely N, Karger A, Sarode P, Singh I, Weigert A, Wietelmann A, Stiewe T, Dammann R, Fink L, Grimminger F, Barreto G, Seeger W, Pullamsetti SS, Rapp UR, **Savai R**. Metastasis-Associated Protein 2 Represses NF- κ B to Reduce Lung Tumor Growth and Inflammation. **Cancer Res**. 2020 Oct 1;80(19):4199-4211. doi: 10.1158/0008-5472.CAN-20-1158.

Sarode P, Zheng X, Giotopoulou G, Weigert A, Kuenze C, Gunther S, Tretyn A, Gattenlöhner S, Stiewe T, Grimminger F, Georgios T, Stathopoulos2, Pullamsetti SS, Seeger W, **Savai R**. Tumor-associated macrophage-specific β -catenin-FOSL2-ARID5A signaling is a major driver of macrophage programming and progression of lung cancer. **Sci Adv**, 05 Jun 2020:vol. 6, no. 23, eaaz6105. DOI: 10.1126/sciadv.aaz6105

Salazar Y, Zheng X, Brunn D, Raifer H, Vogel D, Winter H, Guenther S, Weigert A, Schmall A, Tufman A, Fink L, Brüne B, Grimminger F, Seeger W, Pullamsetti SS, Huber M, **Savai R**. Microenvironmental Th9- and Th17- lymphocytes induce metastatic spreading in lung cancer. **J Clin Invest**. 2020 Jun 2:124037. DOI: 10.1172/JCI124037

Pullamsetti SS, Kojonazarov B, Storn S, Gall H, Salazar Y, Wolf J, Weigert A, El-Nikhely N, Ghofrani HA, Krombach GA, Fink L, Gattenlöhner S, Rapp UR, Schermuly RT, Grimminger F, Seeger W, **Savai R**. Lung cancer-associated pulmonary hypertension: role of microenvironmental inflammation based on tumor cell-immune cell crosstalk. **Sci Transl Med**. 2017; 15;9(416). DOI: 10.1126/scitranslmed.aai9048

Schmall A, Al-Tamari HM, Herold S, Kampschulte M, Weigert A, Wietelmann A, Vipotnik N, Grimminger F, Seeger W, Pullamsetti SS, **Savai R**. Macrophage and Cancer Cell Crosstalk via CCR2 and CX3CR1 is a Fundamental Mechanism Driving Lung Cancer. **Am J Respir Crit Care Med**. 2015;191:437-47. DOI: 10.1164/rccm.201406-1137OC

Savai R, Al-Tamari HM, Sedding D, Kojonazarov B, Muecke C, Teske R, Capecci MR, Weissmann N, Grimminger G, Seeger W, Schermuly RT, Pullamsetti SS. Pro-proliferative and inflammatory signaling converge on the FoxO1 transcription factor in pulmonary hypertension. **Nat Med**. 2014;20:1289-300. DOI: 10.1038/nm.3695

Savai R, Pullamsetti SS, Kolbe J, Bieniek E, Voswinckel R, Fink L, Scheed A, Ritter C, Dahal BK, Vater A, Klussmann S, Ghofrani HA, Weissmann N, Klepetko W, Banat GA, Seeger W, Grimminger F, Schermuly RT. Immune and inflammatory cell involvement in the pathology of idiopathic pulmonary arterial hypertension. **Am J Respir Crit Care Med**. 2012;186(9):897-908. DOI: 10.1164/rccm.201202-0335OC

Savai R, Schermuly RT, Pullamsetti SS, Schneider M, Greschus S, Ghofrani HA, Traupe H, Grimminger F, Banat GA. A combination of hybrid-based vaccination and cellular therapy prevent tumor growth by enforcing FAS/FASL-mediated cytotoxicity. **Cancer Res**. 2007;67:5443-53. doi: 10.1158/0008-5472.CAN-06-3677.