

List of contents

<u>1.</u>	<u>INTRODUCTION</u>	<u>1</u>
<u>1.1.</u>	<u>Melanoma. Cell of origin and malignant transformation.</u>	<u>2</u>
1.1.1.	<u>Melanocytes</u>	2
1.1.2.	<u>Melanocytic nevi</u>	3
1.1.3.	<u>Melanoma in situ</u>	4
1.1.4.	<u>Invasive melanoma</u>	5
<u>1.2.</u>	<u>Risk factors for Melanoma</u>	<u>6</u>
1.2.1.	<u>Environmental factors</u>	6
1.2.2.	<u>Host factors</u>	8
<u>1.3.</u>	<u>Epidemiology. Melanoma over time.</u>	<u>9</u>
<u>1.4.</u>	<u>Genetics and Melanoma</u>	<u>11</u>
1.4.1.	<u>Cell cycle progression, apoptosis, and senescence</u>	12
1.4.2.	<u>Chromatid segregation and genetic stability</u>	15
1.4.3.	<u>Chromatin remodeling and transcriptional control</u>	16
1.4.4.	<u>Epigenetic regulation</u>	17
1.4.5.	<u>Telomere maintenance</u>	18
1.4.6.	<u>Proliferation and survival of the cell</u>	19
<u>1.5.</u>	<u>Developmental pathways of melanoma</u>	<u>27</u>
1.5.1.	<u>Acral</u>	27
1.5.2.	<u>Mucosal</u>	28
1.5.3.	<u>Uveal</u>	29
1.5.4.	<u>Divergent pathways</u>	30
<u>2.</u>	<u>JUSTIFICATION, HYPOTHESIS, AND OBJECTIVES</u>	<u>32</u>
<u>2.1.</u>	<u>Justification</u>	<u>33</u>
<u>2.2.</u>	<u>Hypothesis</u>	<u>34</u>
<u>2.3.</u>	<u>Objectives</u>	<u>34</u>
<u>3.</u>	<u>USE OF FORMALIN-FIXED PARAFFIN-EMBEDDED SAMPLES FOR NGS</u>	<u>35</u>
.....		35
<u>3.1.</u>	<u>Overview</u>	<u>36</u>

<u>3.2.</u>	<u>Reference and contribution of the candidate</u>	36
<u>3.3.</u>	<u>Suitability of melanoma FFPE samples for NGS libraries: time and quality thresholds for downstream molecular tests</u>	37
3.3.1.	<u>Introduction</u>	37
3.3.2.	<u>Materials and Methods</u>	39
3.3.3.	<u>Results</u>	43
3.3.4.	<u>Discussion</u>	50
3.3.5.	<u>Conclusion</u>	52
<u>4.</u>	<u>MOLECULAR CHARACTERIZATION OF THE DIVERGENT PATHWAYS</u>	53
<u>4.1.</u>	<u>Overview</u>	54
<u>4.2.</u>	<u>Reference and contribution of the candidate</u>	54
<u>4.3.</u>	<u>Mutational characterization of cutaneous melanoma supports divergent pathways model for melanoma development</u>	55
4.3.1.	<u>Introduction</u>	55
4.3.2.	<u>Material and Methods</u>	57
4.3.3.	<u>Results</u>	62
4.3.4.	<u>Discussion</u>	72
4.3.5.	<u>Conclusion</u>	76
<u>5.</u>	<u>CHARACTERIZATION OF MELANOMAS HARBORING MUTATIONS IN KIT</u>	78
<u>5.1.</u>	<u>Overview</u>	79
<u>5.2.</u>	<u>References and contribution of the candidate</u>	79
<u>5.3.</u>	<u>Distribution and clinical role of <i>KIT</i> gene mutations in melanoma according to subtype: a study of 492 Spanish patients</u>	80
5.3.1.	<u>Introduction</u>	80
5.3.2.	<u>Material and methods</u>	83
5.3.3.	<u>Results</u>	86
5.3.4.	<u>Discussion</u>	92
5.3.5.	<u>Conclusion</u>	94
<u>6.</u>	<u>ASSESSMENT OF THE PROGNOSTIC VALUE OF KIT MUTATIONAL STATUS</u>	95

<u>6.1.</u>	<u>Overview</u>	96
<u>6.2.</u>	<u>Reference and contribution of the candidate</u>	96
<u>6.3.</u>	<u><i>KIT</i> mutational status does not constitute an independent prognostic marker in cutaneous melanoma. A study on 688 Spanish patients</u>	97
6.3.1.	<u>Introduction</u>	97
6.3.2.	<u>Materials and methods</u>	97
6.3.3.	<u>Results</u>	98
6.3.4.	<u>Discussion</u>	103
6.3.5.	<u>Conclusion</u>	103
<u>7.</u>	<u>GENERAL DISCUSSION</u>	104
<u>7.1.</u>	<u>Strengths</u>	108
<u>7.2.</u>	<u>Limitations</u>	109
<u>7.3.</u>	<u>Future perspectives</u>	109
<u>8.</u>	<u>CONCLUSIONS</u>	111
<u>9.</u>	<u>BIBLIOGRAPHY</u>	113
<u>10.</u>	<u>ANNEXES</u>	154