

2019 Fellow



Giulio Francia

Biological Sciences

The University of Texas at El Paso

Dr. Giulio Francia grew up in Maputo Mozambique, in Africa, and he attended the local Portuguese-speaking school A Luta Continua. Later, he moved to Mbabane in the neighboring Kingdom of Swaziland, and studied at the local Sifundzane high school and then at the Waterford Kamhlaba United Word College. He attended Bristol University in the U.K. where he earned a B.Sc. in Biochemistry. He obtained his Ph.D. from the Imperial Cancer Research Fund, working in Ian Hart's Biology of Metastasis lab at St. Thomas' Hospital in London, U.K. He then started postdoctoral training with Bob Kerbel at the University of Toronto, Canada. He joined UTEP as a faculty member in 2012. Dr. Francia studies new treatment strategies that can delay the growth of cancers that have spread to other organs. He has spent 25 years developing models of cancer. With his current graduate students Serina Batson, Diana Prospero and Briandy Fernandez he studies the anti-tumor effect of the combination of metronomic chemotherapy with immunotherapy. Before joining UTEP, he had no teaching experience. In this he was 'saved' by the virtuoso mentoring by his colleagues and renowned teachers Dr. Kristin Gosselink, Jeffrey Olimpo, Steve Varela, and Dr. German Rosas-Acosta, and by the unwavering support of his Dean, Dr. Rob Kirken. Dr. Francia now teaches Freshman Biology and Senior Cancer Biology. He tries to bring to the classroom his experience of academia from the different countries where he studied. He lives in El Paso with his wife Svetlana.