Message from the Guest Editor

Dear Colleagues,

Autoantibodies in autoimmune disease can either present an epiphenomenon or can be active players in disease. While epiphenomenal autoantibodies are the result of an upstream event and have no clear effect on disease development, they can be useful to predict disease and as they reflect the underlying immune response. Pathogenic autoantibodies affect the disease pathway in a number of ways, including deposition of immune complexes and inflammation, stimulation and inhibition of receptor functions, stimulation and inhibition of enzyme functions, and facilitated antigen-uptake. This Special Issue of *Antibodies* focuses on disease-associated autoantibodies, with specific emphasis on different pathogenic mechanism, potential therapeutic options and critical information that can be derived from the study of autoantibodies.

Dr. Christiane Hampe
Guest Editor