



The 50th Anniversary of the Discovery of the First Statin by Prof. Dr. Akira Endo: Lipid-Lowering Drugs and Strategies

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Deadline for manuscript
submissions:

closed (30 November 2023)

Message from the Guest Editors

Dear Colleagues,

The rate-controlling enzyme of cholesterol synthesis is 3-hydroxy-3-methyl-glutaryl-coenzyme A reductase (HMG-CoA reductase). In the midsummer of 1972, Dr. Akira Endo and his team discovered that the mold *Penicillium citrinum*, which was isolated from a rice sample collected at a grain shop in Kyoto, inhibited HMG-CoA reductase. In July 1973, they isolated three active metabolites from the culture broth and the most active product of these three was named ML-236B, also known as compactin or mevastatin. This discovery led to the development of statins as hypolipidemic drugs, resulting in the demonstration of the efficacy of statins in multiple primary and secondary prevention trials. To celebrate the 50th anniversary of Dr. Akira Endo's truly unique and historic contribution to science and medicine, this commemorative Special Issue focuses on lipid-lowering drugs and strategies, including biological drug products.





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Message from the Editor-in-Chief

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