



## Molecular Morphology and Function of Stromal Cells

Guest Editor:

**Dr. Mirko Manetti**

Department of Experimental and  
Clinical Medicine, Section of  
Anatomy and Histology,  
University of Florence, 50134  
Florence, Italy

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### Message from the Guest Editor

In recent years, there have been substantial advances in our understanding of stromal cell biology, especially the molecular signals underlying their contribution to several biological processes in different tissues, including tissue morphogenesis and development, maintenance of local tissue homeostasis, tissue injury, regeneration, immune responses, cancer, and other pathologies. Increasing evidence indeed indicates that stromal cells are leading actors in shaping the organization, integrity, and dynamics of their own microenvironment, but their phenotype and functions also are tightly dependent on the specific tissue microenvironment where they reside.

Expanding our knowledge of the cellular and molecular mechanisms regulating the interactions of stromal cells among themselves and with neighbor parenchymal cells or tissue-resident stem cells in physiological and pathophysiological contexts is crucial to gain insights into their potential clinical relevance as therapeutic targets or tools in the translational field of tissue engineering and regenerative medicine.





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MDPI, Grosspeteranlage 5  
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