Immuno-Oncology: Identification of Therapeutic Targets, Development of Novel Drugs and Improvement of Treatment Approaches for Cancer

Guest Editor:

Dr. Veronica Balatti
Research Scientist, Department of Cancer Biology and Genetics, The Ohio State University, Columbus, OH, USA

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Message from the Guest Editor

Dear Colleagues

Recently, we witnessed an extraordinary development in cancer therapy, led by the evolving field of immuno–oncology. Compounds targeting cancer-specific mutated genes were generated, and more target molecules are currently being investigated to develop new drugs. Immunotherapy is an evolution of targeted therapy where the immune system is targeted to improve its ability to kill cancer cells. Additionally, effective vaccines are already employed for infectious agent-related cancers and immunoprevention of cancers not related to infectious agents was observed in transgenic mice with activated oncogenes, indicating that stimulation of the immune system in healthy hosts can inhibit carcinogenesis. These strategies, are having an extraordinary success, but they can have side effects. Since these approaches are quickly taking over classic chemotherapy, perfecting immuno–oncology is essential to improve patient wellbeing. Hence, in this issue, we will discuss the most recent discoveries leading to the development of a new generation of drugs and therapeutic approaches for cancer treatment.

Dr. Veronica Balatti
Guest Editor

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SpecialIssue

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