Special Issue

Innovative Experimental Approaches Targeting Gastrointestinal Tumors with Phytochemicals and Anticancer Drugs

Message from the Guest Editors

This Special Issue is focused on the use of molecular biology techniques and new delivery strategies to increase the efficacy of phytochemicals and anticancer drugs utilized against gastrointestinal tumors, like gastric cancer, liver cancer, colon cancer, and pancreatic cancer. These tumors represent an important health problem, because they cause high rates of mortality in oncological patients. The main targets of antitumor therapies are represented by the described hallmarks of cancer: self-sufficiency in growth signals, insensitivity to anti-growth signals, evasion of apoptosis, limitless replicative potential, sustained angiogenesis, tissue invasion and metastasis, deregulated metabolic pathways, evasion of the immune system, chromosomal instability, proinflammatory tumor microenvironment, and resistance to anticancer drugs (exerted through P-glycoprotein 1). Targeting several oncogenes and oncoproteins of these molecular pathways with the same drug or a combination of natural and synthetic molecules can increase the efficacy of antitumor therapies.

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As the world of science becomes ever more specialized, researchers may lose themselves in the deep forest of the ever increasing number of subfields being created. This open access journal Applied Sciences has been started to link these subfields, so researchers can cut through the forest and see the surrounding, or quite distant fields and subfields to help develop his/her own research even further with the aid of this multi-dimensional network.

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