Special Issue

Nanomaterials for Cell Signaling and Proliferation/Differentiation

Message from the Guest Editors

With the increasing knowledge on the molecules responsible for not only cell proliferation and differentiation, but also for cell signaling in general, it has become plausible to identify potential therapeutic targets. Cytokines and hormones have an important role in the treatment of specific pathologies, while cell adhesion motifs (CAM) are being used in several materials in order to promote cell adhesion, proliferation, or even differentiation. While the exploitation of both natural and recombinant versions of these molecules is appealing, problems regarding their stability and toxicity need to be overcome.

Nanomaterials of different sources are a viable alternative to effectively deliver these compounds, maintaining these active molecules, protecting them from degradation until their target is reached. Several biomolecules and elements can be used to produce nanocarriers such as polysaccharides, polypeptides, lipids, or metals.

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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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