

Special Issue

The Role of Autophagy and Macrophages in Modulating Immune Responses in Atherosclerosis

Message from the Guest Editors

Atherosclerosis is a chronic vascular disease characterized by lipid deposition, immune cell infiltration, and sustained inflammation within the arterial wall. Macrophages, central to this process, influence disease initiation and progression through roles in lipid handling, efferocytosis, and modulation of immune responses. Autophagy, an evolutionarily conserved intracellular degradation pathway, has emerged as a key regulator of macrophage phenotype, survival, and plasticity. Dysregulated autophagy impairs macrophage homeostasis, promotes unresolved inflammation, and contributes to plaque growth and instability. “The Role of Autophagy and Macrophages in Modulating Immune Responses in Atherosclerosis” highlights recent advances in understanding the autophagy–macrophage axis and its impact on vascular pathology. We welcome original research and reviews covering mechanistic studies, biomarker discovery, and therapeutic approaches targeting autophagy in macrophages. Submissions employing diverse methodologies, including in vitro systems, in vivo models, omics, imaging, and translational studies, are encouraged.

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