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Epithelial-to-Mesenchymal Transition (EMT) in Cancer

Guest Editor:

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Message from the Guest Editor

Epithelial-to-mesenchymal transition (EMT) is an important event in embryonic development; the transition of epithelial cells to mesenchymal cells allows the formation of adult tissues and organs.

EMT is modulated at different levels of control, such as transcriptional control, epigenetic modifications, alternative splicing, translational regulation and microRNA-mediated gene silencing. Moreover, the cellular trans-differentiation from epithelial to mesenchymal states is regulated by many signaling pathways, of which the Ras-ERK, MAPK and TGF- β pathways are among the best characterized. These pathways trigger the activation of key transcription factors that serve as master regulators of cell–cell adhesion, cell polarity, and motility.

However, despite the intense research for last twenty years, our knowledge is very limited about how all these components regulate the transition. More research is necessary to understand the EMT mechanism and it will help us to identify appropriate drug target. This special issue will discuss the different aspect of EMT.

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Message from the Editor-in-Chief

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