



Discovery, Function, and Therapeutic Employment of Immune Checkpoints

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Message from the Guest Editor

The discovery and characterization of immune checkpoints have significantly improved our understanding of the regulation of the adaptive immune system. Providing inhibitory signals, mainly for T cell activation, immune checkpoint pathways appear to be one of the major mechanisms resulting in the immune escape of tumor cells and other irregular cells.

In functional terms, immune checkpoints exist as specific cell-surface receptors and their ligands expressed on immune cells and various other cells, including tumor cells. Consequently, the discovery and functional characterization of major immune checkpoint receptors led to the Nobel Prize award to James P. Allison (CTLA-4) and Tasuku Honjo (PD-1) in 2018. Hence, this Special Issue in Biomedicines will contribute to the understanding of the modes of action of immune checkpoint pathways and their components, and may pave the way for the further development of effective immunotherapeutic strategies against various diseases.





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Message from the Editor-in-Chief

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