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Neutrophil Extracellular Traps (NETs) in Immunity

Guest Editor:

Dr. Marzena Garley
Department of Immunology, Medical University of Bialystok, Waszyngtona 15A, 15-269 Bialystok, Poland

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Message from the Guest Editor

The discovery of neutrophil extracellular traps (NETs) as a part of the central element of the innate immune response raised a number of questions regarding this phenomenon, prompting a reassessment of neutrophil functions. These questions concern the structure of NETs, as well as the inducers and inhibitors of their formation. The question is whether all neutrophils are capable of NET formation; if not, what determines selected cells to carry out such a process? Do NETs cooperate with the migration and chemotaxis of neutrophils and other immunocompetent cells? If so, how? Is the formation and/or elimination of NETs a critical aspect of an innate immune response in a series of pathophysiological mechanisms?

Two decades of research into the formation of neutrophil extracellular traps have provided a wealth of data defining the pleiotropic range of NET activity. However, many questions remain unanswered, and opinions concerning the significance of NETs in the human body are not unanimous. A detailed understanding of mechanisms regulating NET formation might provide a basis of diagnostics and perhaps therapy for diseases in the pathogenesis of which neutrophils are involved.

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Prof. Dr. Felipe Fregni
1. Neuromodulation Center and Center for Clinical Research Learning, Spaulding Rehabilitation Hospital and Massachusetts General Hospital, Harvard Medical School, Boston, MA 02114, USA
2. Department of Epidemiology, Harvard T.H. Chan School of Public Health, Boston, MA 02115, USA

Message from the Editor-in-Chief

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Biomedicines Editorial Office
MDPI, Grosspeteranlage 5
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