Special Issue

The Role of Telomere and Telomerase in Human Disease-2nd Edition

Message from the Guest Editor

Telomeres and telomerase are receiving ever-increasing interest from the scientific community. The telomere/telomerase complex is the key element that determines unlimited replicative potential. Telomere shortening occurs at each round of cell division and, accompanied by DNA synthesis, restricts cell proliferation and induces cell senescence and apoptosis in checkpoint-proficient normal somatic cells. Telomerase is a reverse transcriptase that maintains the length of the telomere, endowing cells with the ability to proliferate indefinitely. Thus, the telomere/telomerase interaction plays a key role in the initiation and progression of diseases such as cancer and aging, making this complex an attractive therapeutic target.

Guest Editor

Dr. Orit Uziel

1. The Felsenstein Medical Research Center, Rabin Medical Center, Petah Tikva 49100, Israel
2. Gray Faculty of Medical Sciences, Tel-Aviv University, Tel Aviv 69978, Israel
3. Institute of Hematology, Davidoff Cancer Center, Rabin Medical Center, Petah Tikva 49100, Israel

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Biomedicines
Editorial Office
MDPI, Grosspeteranlage 5
4052 Basel, Switzerland
Tel: +41 61 683 77 34
biomedicines@mdpi.com

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Editor-in-Chief

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

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