Special Issue

Regulatory Role of ECM Biophysical Signals on Cell and Nuclear Mechanics

Message from the Guest Editors

In vivo, cells are continuously exposed to multiple microenvironmental stimuli, such as chemical, topographic, and mechanical gradients encased within the extracellular matrix, which control their time and space presentation to tightly regulate cell and tissue functions. Recently, it has been appreciated that extracellular-borne forces are transmitted to the nucleus via the cytoskeletal filaments and biochemical signaling to alter the chromatin organization, interchromosome contacts, and gene expression programs. This foundation of mechanobiology aims to link the regulatory role of biophysical signals on cell functions (i.e., migration, differentiation, and neoplastic transformation) with the tensional status of the cytoskeleton along with the mechanical interplay between cytoskeletal forces and nuclear envelope deformation. Focusing on these key aspects, we believe that this Special Issue offers the opportunity to develop a deeper understanding of the mechanisms that regulate mechanically induced alterations in chromatin organization and their effects on cell state and fate by assessing cell cytoskeleton mechanics in a proper extracellular context.

Guest Editors

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