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New Discoveries in Biological Functions of Platelet

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Deadline for manuscript submissions:
closed (30 April 2024)

Message from the Guest Editors

Platelets are small, disc-shaped blood cells that play a vital role in hemostasis, or the prevention of bleeding after vessel injury. Although platelets have long been known to be involved in thrombosis, recent research has revealed new biological functions of these cells in other pathological complications, such as sepsis, diabetes, fibrosis, myocardial infarction, vasculitis, and cancer metastasis. Platelets have been found to interact with immune cells, such as neutrophils and lymphocytes, and modulate their effector functions. Platelets also play a role in different steps of tumor progression. They directly interact with cancer cells, promoting their survival and transmigration through the endothelium, leading to tumor metastasis. Platelets contribute to the formation of the pre-metastatic niche by promoting the recruitment and activation of immune cells and by releasing cytokines and growth factors that support angiogenesis and tumor cell survival. Recent research has revealed important insights into the complex interplay between platelets, immune and cancer cells, leading to new discoveries of platelets in cancer-associated thrombosis and thrombo-inflammation.

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Journal Rank: JCR - Q1 (Biochemistry and Molecular Biology) / CiteScore - Q1 (Biochemistry)

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