

Special Issue

Hepatic Stellate Cells and Immune Microenvironment in Hepatocellular Carcinoma

Message from the Guest Editor

Hepatocellular carcinoma (HCC) is a major cancer-related mortality cause worldwide due to rising liver fibrosis and impaired hepatic immunity. Activated hepatic stellate cells (HSCs) may directly/indirectly interact with hepatic cells, modulating the hepatic tumor microenvironment (TME) involving fibrotic and immune cell types. Herein, their created immune microenvironment plays a pivotal role in HCC pathogenesis and immune escape.

This Special Issue focuses on:

Fibrogenic cytokines' roles in HSC activation during hepatic fibrogenesis and HCC progression;

Cellular crosstalk between activated HSCs and innate/adaptive immunity;

Epigenetics and immune microenvironment in HSCs;

Interactions of activated HSCs and ECM in hepatic TME;

Reciprocal metabolic modulation of activated HSCs in immune microenvironment;

Clinical implications of regulating activated HSCs and immune cells in hepatic TME.

This Special Issue offers novel insights into activated HSCs' key roles in enhancing hepatocarcinogenesis via immune-modulatory properties, and reiterates HSCs as a potent target for advanced HCC treatment.

Guest Editor

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Biomolecules is a multidisciplinary open-access journal that reports on all aspects of research related to biogenic substances, from small molecules to complex polymers. We invite manuscripts of high scientific quality that pertain to the diverse aspects relevant to organic molecules, irrespective of the biological question or methodology. We aim for a competent, fair peer review and rapid publication. Please look at some of the exciting work that has been published in *Biomolecules* so far. We would be delighted to welcome you as one of our authors.

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