

Special Issue

Matrix Metalloproteinases in Health and Disease in the Times of COVID-19

Message from the Guest Editors

The pandemic triggered by SARS-CoV-2 (the virus causative of COVID-19) highlights the urgent need to advance our understanding of the interactions between emerging pathogens and their host, as a way to catalyze the design of biomedical and social interventions to mitigate and treat infections. Pathogen–host interactions involve target tissues as well as the immune system and proteinases, enzymes that catalyze the cleavage of specific protein substrates. The role that proteinases play in these interactions is unclear. Matrix metalloproteinases (MMPs) catalyze the cleavage of extracellular matrix components, growth factors, cytokines, and receptors thereof to govern immune responses; cardiovascular function; and the development of cardiovascular diseases, diabetes, cancer, and rheumatoid arthritis (a chronic autoimmune disorder). Individuals with these comorbidities have an increased susceptibility to developing severe COVID-19 illnesses. The roles played by proteinases (MMPs in particular) in the regulation of SARS-CoV-2–host interactions and in increasing the susceptibility to COVID-19 illnesses are largely unknown. [...]

Guest Editors

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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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