Special Issue

The Role of CD36 in Human Health and Disease

Message from the Guest Editors

During recent years, the CD36 receptor has arisen as a key participant in the multiplayer environment of different homeostatic and diseased states and a brilliant example of resource optimization in a biological system. In homeostatic conditions, CD36 is expressed by a wide variety of cell types, where it supports various functions. It was introduced as a cell adhesion molecule on platelets and erythrocytes with high affinity for collagens and thrombospondin-1, but later on, it was found to support many other roles, from the recognition, uptake, and processing of fatty acids, to lipids scavenging for anionic or oxidized phospholipids or lipoproteins, angiogenesis inhibition by impairing endothelial cell migration and promoting apoptosis, microglial binding and the clearance of hydrophobic amyloid fibrils in brains affected by Alzheimer's disease, and even the recognition and clearance of fungi and bacteria, just to name a few. As a result, it has acquired many names along the way, from glycoprotein IV (GPIV) to fatty acid translocase (FAT), scavenger receptor class B (SR-B2), or glycoprotein 88 (GP88).

Guest Editors

Dr. Laura Cristina Ceafalan

1. Cell Biology, Neurosciences and Experimental Myology Laboratory, Victor Babeș Institute of Pathology, 050096 Bucharest, Romania
2. Department of Cellular and Molecular Biology and Histology, Carol Davila University of Medicine and Pharmacy, 050474 Bucharest, Romania

Prof. Dr. Mihail E. Hinescu

1. Division of Cellular and Molecular Biology & Histology, 'Carol Davila' University of Medicine and Pharmacy, 050474 Bucharest, Romania
2. "Victor Babes" National Institute of Pathology, 050096 Bucharest, Romania

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

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Prof. Dr. Peter E. Nielsen
Department of Cellular and Molecular Medicine, Faculty of Health and Medical Sciences, University of Copenhagen, Blegdamsvej 3C, DK-2200 Copenhagen, Denmark

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Department of Computer Science, Virginia Commonwealth University, Richmond, VA 23284, USA

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