



## Matrix Effectors and Cancer

Guest Editors:

**Prof. Dr. Nikos Karamanos**

Biochemistry, Biochemical  
Analysis and Matrix  
Pathobiochemistry Research  
Group, Laboratory of  
Biochemistry, Department of  
Chemistry, University of Patras,  
26500 Patras, Greece

**Dr. Zoi Piperigkou**

Biochemistry, Biochemical  
Analysis & Matrix Pathobiology  
Research Group, Laboratory of  
Biochemistry, Department of  
Chemistry, University of Patras,  
26110 Patras, Greece

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### Message from the Guest Editors

Dear Colleagues,

Extracellular matrices (ECMs) are highly dynamic three-dimensional structural meshworks composed of macromolecules, such as proteoglycans/glycosaminoglycans (PGs/GAGs), collagens, laminins, elastin, glycoproteins and proteinases. Matrix macromolecules are characterized by high structural complexity and heterogeneity. They form complex networks through which they dynamically communicate with cells, thus serving as critical regulators of several homeostatic and pathological processes, such as cancer. ECM molecular composition varies among the tissue of origin and it undergoes significant remodeling during cancer progression. The elucidation of the mechanistic aspects governing matrix assembly and cell–matrix interactions is of critical importance to discover matrix-mediated cancer pathobiology and novel therapeutic approaches. The aim of this Collection of *Cancers* is to highlight the emerging roles of effective matrix macromolecules, including matrix metalloproteinases, proteoglycans, specific types of collagens and matrix (glyco)proteins that play key roles in cancer development and aggressiveness.

Prof. Nikos Karamanos

Dr. Zoi Piperigkou

*Collection Editors*





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## Editor-in-Chief

### Prof. Dr. Samuel C. Mok

Department of Gynecologic  
Oncology and Reproductive  
Medicine, The University of Texas  
MD Anderson Cancer Center,  
Houston, TX 77030, USA

## Message from the Editor-in-Chief

*Cancers* is an international online journal addressing both clinical and basic science issues related to cancer research. The journal is publishing in Open Access format, which will certainly evolve to ensure that the journal takes full advantage of the rapidly changing world of information and knowledge dissemination. It publishes high-quality clinical, translational, and basic science research on cancer prevention, initiation, progression, and treatment, as well as other related topics, particularly to capture the most seminal studies in the rapidly growing area of immunology, immunotherapy, and tumor microenvironment.

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*Cancers* Editorial Office  
MDPI, St. Alban-Anlage 66  
4052 Basel, Switzerland

Tel: +41 61 683 77 34  
[www.mdpi.com](http://www.mdpi.com)

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