Special Issue

Cellular Plasticity and the Untapped Therapeutic Potential in Cancer

Message from the Guest Editors

The administration of targeted therapies in cancer patients with well-defined tumour-driving mutations has markedly improved overall survival. Response rates to these therapies, however, remain disappointing, with quantifiable tumour regression limited by the development of acquired resistance. More recent evidence has indicated that targeted therapy can also rapidly induce diverse, genetically-independent, transcriptional programmes resulting in a “drug-tolerant” or “drug persister” cell population. Consequently, during this nongenetic evolutionary phase, cells are able to undergo an adaptive phenotype switch. This cellular or phenotype plasticity exhibited by a subpopulation by tumour cells has been demonstrated to release cells from their dependence on the tumour-driving alteration, resulting in a population of dedifferentiated, slow-cycling cells, capable of surviving continuous drug treatment.

Guest Editors

Assoc. Prof. Pieter Eichhorn
Curtin University, Perth, Australia

Dr. Christine Chaffer
The Kinghorn Cancer Centre, Garvan Institute of Medical Research, Australia

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

mdpi.com/journal/cancers

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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.

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

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