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Structure and Function of Podoplanin (PDPN) in Disease

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Message from the Guest Editor

Podoplanin (PDPN), also known as T1alpha or Aggrus, is a type I transmembrane sialoglycoprotein that is expressed not only in normal tissues, such as pulmonary type I alveolar cells, renal podocytes, and lymphatic endothelial cells, but also in cancer tissues, including brain tumor, malignant mesothelioma, oral cancer, and lung cancer. PDPN is associated with tumor cell-induced platelet aggregation and hematogenous metastasis through interactions with the C-type lectin-like receptor 2 (CLEC-2). Recent clinical studies have shown the association between increased PDPN expression and poor disease prognosis, indicating that the establishment of anti-PDPN mAbs is critical for developing novel therapeutic strategies against cancer development and metastatic progression. This Special Issue of *Cells* should improve our understanding of PDPN by including researchers working not only with structure and function of PDPN but also diagnosis and therapy targeting PDPN, including antibody-drug conjugate (ADC), chimeric antigen receptor-T (CAR-T) therapy, radioimmunotherapy (RIT), photoimmunotherapy (PIT), and liquid biopsy.



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