

Special Issue

TAM Family Receptors and Ligands in Health and Disease

Message from the Guest Editors

Receptor tyrosine kinases (RTKs) are essential in cellular communication and biological processes. Among the family of RTK genes, the last to be discovered were the receptors of the TAM group (an acronym for Tyro3, Axl and MerTK), three proteins sharing the same molecular architecture. These had a series of interesting characteristics that contrasted with other families of RTKs. Although initially their function was not clearly defined, they now appear as essential components in the modulation of the immune response and the recovery of damaged tissues including lung, liver, heart and brain. In addition, they appear to play an important role in cancer, where they are frequently overexpressed, associated with a worse prognosis and with resistance to chemotherapy, making them interesting targets in this disease. In this Special Issue, we want to offer a sample of recent studies on the function of these proteins and a series of reviews that provide an up-to-date summary of the knowledge we have about this fascinating system.

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Cells has become a solid international scientific journal that is now indexed on SCIE and in other databases. We have successfully introduced a special issues format so that these issues serve as mini-forums in specific areas of cell science. *Cells* encourages researchers to suggest new special issues, serve as special issues editors, and volunteer to be reviewers. Our main focus will remain on cell anatomy and physiology, the structure and function of organelles, cell adhesion and motility, and the regulation of intracellular signaling, growth, differentiation, and aging. We are open to both original research papers and reviews.

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