Special Issue

Role of Extracellular Matrix in Cancer and Disease

Message from the Guest Editors

The extracellular matrix (ECM) is a complex three-dimensional network composed of proteins, glycoproteins, proteoglycans, and other molecules that provide structural and metabolic support to cells in tissues and organs. The ECM undergoes continuous remodeling by proteases and glycosidases that is strictly controlled under normal conditions and is essential for the maintenance of tissue homeostasis. In pathological situations such as cancer and fibrosis, the remodeling of the ECM is dysregulated and constitutes one of the first events in the progression of the disease. For example, the altered expression of ECM macromolecules in the tumor microenvironment is able to condition the growth, survival and migration of tumor cells themselves. Starting from this evidence, recent studies have focused on identifying new therapeutic and diagnostic strategies targeting ECM molecules. The aim of this Special Issue of *Cells* is to bring to light new studies that advance our knowledge of the molecular mechanisms involving the ECM in the biogenesis of cancer and other diseases.

Guest Editors

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Message from the Editorial Board

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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