

Special Issue

Natural Killer Cells, the Terminator of Aggressive Tumors: Development, Function Source and Effective Therapeutics

Message from the Guest Editors

Recently have we started to appreciate the significance of NK cells in tumor therapy. Identification of cancer stem cells or poorly differentiated tumors as prime targets of NK cells has finally shown the indispensable role in cancer therapy. Also, successful cancer therapy will require restoration of both NK and T cell functions in cancer patients, since each is likely designed to target different subsets of tumor cells with opposing degrees of cellular differentiation with differing expression of MHC class I. NK cells mediate successful control of the tumor cells by direct cytolytic effect and/or through antibody-mediated ADCC or indirectly through differentiation of tumor cells by IFN- γ , which increases the efficacy of chemotherapeutic and radiotherapeutic targeting strategies.

Moreover, strategies should be designed to allow maintenance of good NK expansion and function in cancer patients, since not only are they capable of expanding cancer suppressing CD8⁺ T cells, but they are also key in limiting the expansion of immune suppressive cells. Mature allogeneic activated NK cells can be combined with other immunotherapeutic ways for the final goal of tumor eradication.

Guest Editors

Dr. Anahid Jewett

1. Tumor Immunology Laboratory, Division of Oral Biology and Medicine, School of Dentistry and Medicine, Los Angeles, CA 90095, USA
2. Division of Advanced Prosthodontics and Weintraub Center for Reconstructive Biotechnology, UCLA School of Dentistry, Los Angeles, CA 90095, USA
3. The Jonsson Comprehensive Cancer Center, UCLA School of Dentistry and Medicine, Los Angeles, CA 90095, USA

Dr. Kawaljit Kaur

Division of Oral Biology and Medicine, The Jane and Jerry Weintraub Center for Reconstructive Biotechnology, Department of Dentistry, University of California Los Angeles (UCLA), Los Angeles, CA 90095, USA

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Editorial Office
MDPI, Grosspeteranlage 5
4052 Basel, Switzerland
Tel: +41 61 683 77 34
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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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