

Special Issue

Liquid Biopsy: Cancer Diagnostic Biomarkers of the Future

Message from the Guest Editor

Cancer metastasis represents the culmination of tumor progression and is the main cause of death among patients with cancer. Notably, Circulating Tumor Cells (CTCs) comprise a rare and heterogeneous cell population that sheds from tumors and traverses the peripheral blood stream throughout the metastatic process. Consequently, the concept of “Liquid Biopsy” to interrogate CTCs and other blood analytes (ctDNA, exosomes, microRNAs, etc.) for their clinical application as precision medicine tools has significantly expanded in the last two decades, following the first implementation of Liquid Biopsy proving the clinical utility of CTCs as independent prognostic indicators of progression-free and overall survival of patients with metastatic cancer. These advances have resulted in novel analyses employing enrichment platforms which either capture CTCs by multiple parameters, profile CTC at the single-cell level, or identify specific CTC biomarker expression and/or gene transcripts. Collectively, CTC/Liquid Biopsy studies have opened new investigational avenues towards the detection and prognostication of cancer progression and responses to therapy.

Guest Editor

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