

Special Issue

Genetic and Epigenetic Factors for Autoimmune Diseases

Message from the Guest Editor

Autoimmune diseases such as rheumatoid arthritis (RA) and systemic lupus erythematosus (SLE) are characterized by an increased and dysregulated immune response against self-antigens, leading to cellular and tissue damage across multiple organs. Genetic predisposition is considered a necessary but insufficient factor in the development of these conditions, accounting for only part of their onset and progression. This suggests that additional cofactors—such as epigenetic mechanisms—may play a critical role. While genetic susceptibility contributes to disease risk, epigenetic factors are being increasingly recognized as key players in the multifaceted development of autoimmunity. This Special Issue aims to explore the complex interplay between genetic and epigenetic factors in the development, progression, and clinical manifestation of diseases such as RA, SLE, and other autoimmune disorders. We invite contributions that examine molecular mechanisms, identify novel genetic and epigenetic biomarkers, and highlight emerging therapeutic strategies that target the genetic and epigenetic pathways in autoimmune disorders.

Guest Editor

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Message from the Editor-in-Chief

Genes is central to our understanding of biology, and modern advances such as genomics and genome editing have maintained genetics as a vibrant, diverse and fast-moving field. There is a need for good quality, open access journals in this area, and the *Genes* team aims to provide expert manuscript handling, serious peer review, and rapid publication across the whole discipline of genetics. Starting in 2010, the journal is now well established and recognised. Why not consider *Genes* for your next genetics paper?

Editor-in-Chief

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