

Special Issue

ALT: From Telomere Maintenance Mechanisms to Proposed Therapies

Message from the Guest Editors

ALT is one of the Telomere Maintenance Mechanisms. Because the mechanism was unknown at the beginning, many studies were aimed to point out the molecular markers of ALT, since the only distinctive known feature at the time was telomere length maintenance in absence of telomerase. Nowadays, ALT cells have been characterized by different markers widely accepted, but the mechanism and the events triggering ALT are still little known. The complexity of the ALT mechanisms is one of the keys to unfold the heterogeneous behavior of ALT tumors in terms of disease progression and response to treatment. As a consequence, while specific telomerase drugs have been discovered and are presently employed in clinical applications, the therapeutic relevance of molecular players involved in ALT is still debated. Furthermore, considering the role of telomere in chromosome structure and therefore in genome stability and in tumor progression, the mechanisms involved in telomere maintenance need to be clarified and great efforts are needed to allow an in-depth comprehension of the ALT molecular mechanisms; especially in order to develop specific and effective anticancer strategies.

Guest Editors

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Deadline for manuscript submissions

closed (15 November 2019)

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