Special Issue

Epigenetics in Human Development and Disease

Message from the Guest Editors

The molecular era has unraveled aspects of epigenetics in development and disease in humans. Epigenetic aspects of human development and in inflammatory and mental diseases are still neglected in this regard. Epigenetic markers can be used as biomarkers, and since they are reversible, they can also be targets for treatments. In addition to genetic studies, the epigenetic approach can contribute to precision medicine, a healthcare model which advocates for the construction of biological databases for each individual based on concepts of classical genetics, epigenetic marks, metabolomics, and aspects of the patient's clinical phenotype, enabling the establishment of more accurate lines of diagnosis and treatment.

Specific themes include: 1. DNA methylation and RNA methylation marks which are involved in human development and disease; 2. Histone modification marks including methylation, acetylation, etc. which are involved in human development and disease; 3. Non-coding RNA expression, including miRNA, lncRNA, etc. which are involved in human development and disease; 4. Studies with epigenetic drugs will also be considered.

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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?

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