

Special Issue

Epigenetics and Multiple Sclerosis

Message from the Guest Editors

Multiple Sclerosis (MS) is a chronic neuroinflammatory, demyelinating, and neurodegenerative disease of the central nervous system, and a leading cause of lifelong progressive disability in young and middle-aged adults. Notably, the disease is highly heterogenous, symptoms vary greatly depending on the location of the lesion and progression, and the severity is often hard to predict and detect. MS disease is triggered by environmental factors in genetically predisposed individuals. Epigenetic mechanisms like DNA methylation, histone posttranslational modification, and non-coding RNA levels, are sensitive to environmental/lifestyle exposures and regulate gene expression and cellular function without affecting the DNA sequence. Epigenetic studies have the potential to reveal how environmental and genetic factors interact to influence disease onset and progression and to provide valuable insights into novel biomarkers for better patient stratification and personalized medicine.

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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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