

Special Issue

Molecular Roadblocks for Cellular Differentiation, Transdifferentiation or Conversion

Message from the Guest Editors

Homeostasis is a dynamic process. At all stages of life, cell identity is modulated by various factors, usually originating from within the close cellular environment or niche. Cell identity maintenance can therefore be viewed as a dynamic process counteracting the natural trend to change and not a passive/fixed cellular state. The modulation of these cell conversion breaks could prove crucial for treating pathologies characterized by massive cell decay. Moreover, understanding these molecular roadblocks will also improve in vitro differentiation protocols by uncovering molecular inhibitory signals regulating cell fate switches. This Special Issue in *Genes* on “Molecular Roadblocks for Cellular Differentiation, Transdifferentiation, or Conversion” will address the responding mechanisms to instructive signals, with a focus on molecular brakes regulating cell identity and thus tissue regeneration or cell differentiation, as described in different experimental models.

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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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