



The Human Fetal Membranes: A Versatile Tissue Important for Pregnancy Health and Regenerative Therapies

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Message from the Guest Editors

Dear Colleagues,

The human fetal membranes are an important but understudied gestational tissue. They are key for the health of the developing fetus, providing both mechanical and immune protection, along with a large surface area for fetal-to-maternal communication during pregnancy. Although physiologic labor-related signaling cascades induce ruptures at term, premature rupture of the membranes can contribute to Preterm birth onset. Preterm birth, along with other adverse pregnancy outcomes, remain the leading cause of infant mortality and morbidity globally. Premature rupture of membranes also contributes to the high rates of preterm birth by precipitating preterm labor or by increasing the vulnerability of the fetus to ascending infection.

This special edition focuses on both the fundamental molecular basis of its strength, development, and the pathological mechanism(s) leading to adverse pregnancy outcomes.





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