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Genes, Environment and Cancer

Guest Editors:

Prof. Dr. Antonio Giordano

Department of Biology, College of Science and Technology, Temple University, PA, USA 2. Department of Medical Biotechnologies, University of Siena, Italy

Dr. Iris Maria Forte

Department of Cell Biology and Biotherapy Unit, Istituto Nazionale Tumori-IRCCS-Fondazione G. Pascale, I-80131, Napoli, Italy

Dr. Antonella Iannuzzi Carmelina

Department of Cell Biology and Biotherapy Unit, Istituto Nazionale Tumori-IRCCS-Fondazione G. Pascale, I-80131, Napoli, Italy

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Message from the Guest Editors

Dear Colleagues,

Pollution is known to cause and exacerbate a number of chronic diseases, including cancer. In particular, the genetic and epigenetic susceptibility to cancer actually reinforce the concept of an environmental origin of many cancers. However, there is still a scientific debate as to whether cancer may be caused by the numerous pollutingactivity-associated carcinogenic compounds. A clear example of this relationship is represented by malignant mesothelioma (MM). MM is a rare and highly fatal form of cancer of the pleura (or more rarely, peritoneum or pericardium) that is caused by the inhalation of asbestos and other mineral fibers. Most research efforts have focused on occupational exposure to asbestos and have demonstrated their carcinogenicity in animals and humans. However, the role of toxic environmental agents in the genesis of cancers affecting the general population, and the determination of the fraction of overall cancers pollution. attributable to remain issues worth investigation. Therefore, further research will need to explore this and provide a more comprehensive understanding of the problem.













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Editor-in-Chief

Prof. Dr. Maurizio Battino

Department of Odontostomatologic and Specialized Clinical Sciences, Sez-Biochimica, Faculty of Medicine, Università Politecnica delle Marche, Via Ranieri 65, 60100 Ancona, Italy

Message from the Editor-in-Chief

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