Liver Cirrhosis and Hepatocellular Carcinoma: Pathogenesis, Diagnosis and Treatment

Message from the Guest Editor

Liver cirrhosis and hepatocellular carcinoma (HCC) represent the end-stage of most chronic liver diseases and are a major global health burden. Despite the enormous relevance of cirrhotic disease, pharmacological strategies for preventing the sequence leading from chronic hepatitis to liver cirrhosis and finally to HCC are still limited. Increasingly, liver cirrhosis is seen not as a single disease entity, but as one that can be subclassified into distinct molecular, etiological and clinical stages. The assessment of the histological, biochemical and molecular patterns that characterizes liver cirrhosis and the understanding of the complex pathogenetic events/factors involved in the progression into HCC represent an exciting challenge. Moreover the characterization of biomarkers allowing the prediction of the individual risk of disease progression or to provide personalized treatment and/or prevention strategies still represents an unmet need. The aim of this Special Issue is to stimulate research allowing a better understanding of the pathogenesis of liver cirrhosis and HCC and its impact on disease management.