

Special Issue

Cellular Plasticity in Health and Diseases

Message from the Guest Editor

I would like to draw your attention to the ability that many human cells have to change their phenotype, whether they are stem cells or partially or fully differentiated cells (e.g., epithelial, vascular, inflammatory, or immune cells and fibroblasts). In most instances, this phenomenon is an adaptive response of cells to a change in the microenvironment in which they reside, and it is the basis of body development and growth, as well as of tissue damage repair. An example of cellular phenotypic plasticity is epithelial-to-mesenchymal transition (EMT), a multiphasic process through which epithelial cells gradually lose their characteristic phenotype, static and oriented according to an apical-basal polarity, to acquire a poorly adhesive and mobile phenotype that is typical of cells of mesenchymal origin. This Special Issue will focus on the different aspects and roles of cellular phenotypic plasticity and on the molecular pathways that modulate it. Essentially, the issue is aimed at either stimulating novel investigations or summarizing recent literature on this important theme.

Guest Editor

Prof. Dr. Giovanni Barillari

Department of Clinical Sciences and Translational Medicine, University "Tor Vergata", 00161 Rome, Italy

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MDPI, Grosspeteranlage 5
4052 Basel, Switzerland
Tel: +41 61 683 77 34
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