Special Issue

Liver Diseases: From Molecular Basis to Potential Therapy

Message from the Guest Editor

A crucial function of the liver is the elimination of old erythrocytes and the delivery of the necessary components for the replacement of the blood cells and the cytokines to the bone marrow. By producing the bulk of plasma proteins, first albumin, but also those of the coagulation and complement system the liver is responsible for the corpuscular and fluid components of the blood. Those proteins fulfill essential functions under normal, but more importantly under dangerous conditions, when the integrity of the liver itself, or more often when the integrity of extrahepatic tissues, is compromised. The normal condition of the liver is still not well defined at the molecular level. This is, however. essential to recognize a disease as the consequence of the interruption of the different functions. A demarcation between disease and health may not always be apparent as the liver has a large functional reserve. This can, however, be overwhelmed in cases such as druginduced liver damage, irradiation-induced liver fat accumulation, and acute or long-term damage or in some complications of pregnancy.

Guest Editor

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