

## Special Issue

# Galectins (Gals), 2nd Edition

### Message from the Guest Editor

Galectins are a family of soluble proteins expressed in a broad range of animal species and present in various cell types. All these proteins share a common Carbohydrate Recognition Domain (CRD), which is directly involved in carbohydrate binding, in particular to b-galactose residues. The CRD, highly conserved in the family, consists of approximately 130 amino acids organized in a typical b-sandwich fold. The Galectins on the base of their CRD structure have been classified into three groups: proto, tandem repeat, and chimeric galectins. Galectin research is becoming increasingly important thanks to the different roles they can play in many applications as disease biomarkers, therapeutic agents, and drug targets. Many multidisciplinary approaches, encompassing molecular modeling and design, synthetic, and biological chemistry as well as biological characterization, emphasize the needs to identify and to valid new synthetic and natural molecules with a specific biological activity as the modulators of Galectins in biological and pathological processes such as cell signaling, cell adhesion, apoptosis, fibrosis, carcinogenesis, and metabolic disorders.

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### Guest Editor

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## International Journal of Molecular Sciences

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