Special Issue New Insights into Lectins

Message from the Guest Editor

Glycans are involved in a wide variety of life phenomena such as infection, cancer, immunity, development, and differentiation. Certain glycan antigens are known as disease markers such as cancer markers, and abnormalities in glycans are associated with various diseases. Thus, the elucidation of the control mechanism of the cell-specific expression of glycans will be an important issue in future glycoscience research. Additionally, characteristic glycans exist on the surface of foreign pathogens, including viruses and bacteria. Therefore, lectins that specifically recognize glycans not only identify these diseases or pathogens but also have potential utility as new pharmaceutical materials that target glycans. Lectins are present in various species, from lower organisms such as bacteria to higher animals including humans. The roles of lectins in each species are diverse; for example, in humans, lectin receptors are known as pattern recognition receptors that play a role in eliciting innate immune responses. Elucidating the individual interactions between lectins and glycans may lead to unraveling the mechanisms of various diseases and the development of treatments.

Guest Editor

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