

Special Issue

Key Players in Connective Tissue Diseases: The Immune System and Beyond

Message from the Guest Editor

Connective tissue diseases (CTDs) are a heterogeneous group of pathological conditions characterized by an abnormal autoimmune response, leading to chronic inflammation and potential organ damage, whose clinical manifestations encompass a wide variety of symptoms and several laboratory abnormalities. The pathogenesis of CTDs involves not only the acquired immunity, but also innate immunity, genetic and environmental factors which contribute to determine the onset, the evolution of the signs and symptoms over the time and development of comorbidities which characterize the clinical course of these diseases. The management of CTDs often represents a challenge in clinical practice due to their clinical heterogeneity and the lack of biochemical or genetic biomarkers useful for monitoring and predicting the clinical outcome. This Special Issue of *IJMS* aims to focus on advances in the physiopathology, diagnosis and treatment of CTDs, particularly focusing on the development of new diagnostic tools, a molecular basis of pathological processes, disease biomarkers and potential new therapeutic strategies.

Guest Editor

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Message from the Editor-in-Chief

The International Journal of Molecular Sciences (*IJMS*, ISSN 1422-0067) is an open access journal, which was established in 2000. The journal aims to provide a forum for scholarly research on a range of topics, including biochemistry, molecular and cell biology, molecular biophysics, molecular medicine, and all aspects of molecular research in chemistry. *IJMS* publishes both original research and review articles, and regularly publishes special issues to highlight advances at the cutting edge of research. We invite you to read recent articles published in *IJMS* and consider publishing your next paper with us.

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