

Special Issue

Characterization of Extracellular Vesicles in Disease

Message from the Guest Editor

Extracellular vesicles (EVs) are entities known to be released from all cell types, which contain signaling components such as proteins and nucleic acids enclosed by a lipid membrane. What was initially believed to be an unspecific secretion product has turned out to be a cell-type specific means of inter-cellular communication. The population of EVs is heterogenous with regard to the mode of biogenesis, size and cargo. Cargo signatures and their dependence on the (patho-)physiological status of the cell of origin as well as the mechanisms of specific detection of the recipient tissue are currently being investigated with the aim of defining EV-biomarkers and better understanding this communication route. In order to make progress in this field, analytical techniques are refined and frequently employ -omics technologies, such as proteomics and next-generation sequencing of RNAs. This Special Issue invites contributions from this exciting research field with a special emphasis on the molecular characterization of extracellular vesicles depending on the physiological state of the secreting cell type and the recipient tissues.

Guest Editor

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Deadline for manuscript submissions

closed (20 December 2024)



International Journal of Molecular Sciences

an Open Access Journal
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Impact Factor 4.9
CiteScore 9.0
Indexed in PubMed



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*International Journal of
Molecular Sciences*
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