

## Special Issue

# Integrative Physiology of Ghrelin and Synthetic GH Secretagogues

### Message from the Guest Editor

In parallel with the discovery of hypothalamic growth hormone-releasing hormone (GHRH), a series of synthetic peptides, called GH-releasing peptides (GHRP), were also found to release GH from the pituitary gland. The receptors and signaling systems for GHRH and GHRP are different, but cross-talk with each other to regulate GH secretion. Both GHRH and GHRP receptors have been identified as G-protein coupled receptors (GPCR) in pituitary GH secreting somatotrophs. Ghrelin was discovered in searching for endogenous GHRP or GH secretagogues (GHS) from stomach endocrine cells. The ghrelin receptor or GHS receptor (GHSR) distributes widely in almost all tissues, indicating multiple functions for this hormone. This Special Issue would like to bring up the most recent discoveries in ghrelin action on different systems and aims to summarize possible physiological, pathophysiological and therapeutic roles of ghrelin and synthetic GHS. Potential research directions will also be discussed to provide possible leads for future research of ghrelin and its analogues.

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### Guest Editor

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