Joint Special Issue

High-Density Lipoproteins and Cardiovascular Disease: The Good, the Bad, and the Future

Message from the Guest Editors

Dear colleagues, Low HDL cholesterol levels are associated with increased atherosclerotic cardiovascular disease. However, HDL-targeted drugs have failed to reduce cardiovascular events in clinical trials, thereby casting doubt on the beneficial effects of raising HDL levels. HDL has significant cardioprotective functions, including the enhancement of macrophage reverse cholesterol transport and endothelial function, and antioxidant, anti-inflammatory and anti-thrombotic properties. HDL is highly heterogeneous and carries a variety of lipids, proteins and microRNAs. HDL composition is directly related to their cardioprotective functions, but the assignment of specific molecules to HDL functions is not completely understood. Current research is moving towards both the development of robust HDL function tests and the identification of specific HDL molecules within HDL that can be widely applied in translational and pre-clinical studies. The application of novel therapeutic HDL-based approaches requires the development of validated and reproducible measures of these key atheroprotective HDL functions.

Guest Editors

Dr. Joan Carles Escolà-Gil

Institut d'Investigacions Biomèdiques (IIB) Sant Pau, CIBER de Diabetes y Enfermedades Metabólicas Asociadas (CIBERDEM), Barcelona, Spain

Dr. Josep Julve

1. Institut de Recerca de l'Hospital de la Santa Creu i Sant Pau–Centre CERCA, Barcelona, Spain
2. CIBER de Diabetes y Enfermedades Metabólicas Asociadas (CIBERDEM), Madrid, Spain

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