Special Issue

Innate Immune Agonists in Cancer Immunotherapy

Message from the Guest Editor

There is a pressing need to overcome the low immunogenicity of cancer vaccines as well as to lower the tumor microenvironment's tolerance. Pathogen-associated molecular patterns (PAMPs) delivered into tumors make them look like pathogen-infected tissues and elicit an innate immune activation cascade to lower this tolerance. Our immune cells contain a series of pattern recognition receptors (PRRs), activated by PAMPs as well as small molecule innate immune agonists, which structurally resemble PAMPs but lack their infectious capacities. These agonists engage the immune cells via the induction of inflammatory cytokines, interferons, and co-stimulatory molecules and provide indispensable initial signals that determine the type, magnitude, and durability of the immune response. Several small molecule PRR agonists have been developed and actively pursued for their antitumor potential, either as immunotherapeutics or vaccine adjuvants. This Special Issue aims to highlight the use of innate immune agonists in cancer immunotherapy as an approach that has enormous, yet somehow still untapped, potential to induce antitumor immunity.

Guest Editor

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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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