

Special Issue

Urinary Titin: A Novel Biomarker for Muscle Atrophy and Catabolic Conditions

Message from the Guest Editor

Skeletal muscle atrophy is associated with aging, inactivity, poor nutrition, and diseases such as cancer, COPD, and diabetes.

Muscle cells contain contractile myofibrils, with sarcomeres as their basic units. Sarcomeres are composed of contractile proteins (actin and myosin) and the structural protein titin, which connects Z-lines and M-lines. Titin, a large elastic protein (3000–3700 kDa), acts as a molecular spring, resisting passive stretching.

During muscle injury or atrophy, titin is degraded by proteolytic enzymes such as calpains and MMPs, releasing fragments into the bloodstream and urine.

Serum titin fragments reflect myocardial injury and skeletal muscle atrophy, while elevated urinary titin levels are observed in muscular dystrophy and ICU patients with acute muscle atrophy.

The purpose of this Special Issue is to examine urinary titin as a biomarker by investigating its relationship with muscle status during muscle atrophy and recovery, as well as by elucidating the molecular mechanisms underlying titin degradation.

Guest Editor

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