

Special Issue

The Serum Amyloid A (SAA) Family: (Patho)Physiological Functions in (Non)Mammalian Systems

Message from the Guest Editors

The Serum Amyloid A (SAA) family is commonly considered an evolutionary old and highly conserved family consisting of basically four different proteins (SAA1–SAA4) encoded by four different genes (SAA1–SAA4 or *Saa1–Saa4*) in the mammalian system. SAA1 and SAA2 (commonly termed acute-phase SAA [A-SAA]) share high homology on DNA/RNA (including various allelic variations) and on a protein level, which were originally considered to be only of hepatic origin. From a classical point of view, their major functions were previously considered to be as follows: (i) as precursor proteins of secondary reactive amyloidosis (forming amyloid fibrils), (ii) as classical acute-phase reactants, and (iii) as major protein moiety of high-density lipoproteins during inflammation.

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