

Special Issue

Function and Mechanisms of JNK Pathway

Message from the Guest Editors

JNKs are members of a large group of serine/threonine-directed kinases known as mitogen-activated protein kinases (MAPKs). JNKs are important transducing enzymes that are involved in many biological activities, including cell death and cell survival, inflammatory responses, morphogenesis, cytoskeletal changes, cell proliferation, differentiation, as well as gene expression. Different approaches have considered specific proteins of the JNK pathway as a potential therapeutic targets/biomarker to treat human diseases such as diabetes, neurodegenerative conditions, cancer and diseases related with inflammation.

In mammals, there are three genes, namely *jnk1* (MAPK8), *jnk2* (MAPK9), and *jnk3* (MAPK10), that encode for 10 different JNK splice variants. The JNKs activation occurs, after stimulation, through sequentially phosphorylation cascade of three kinases family (MAPK kinase kinase which phosphorylate and activate members of the MAPK kinase family that activate by phosphorylation MAPK proteins).

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