

Special Issue

The MMPs and Its Associated Proteins and Substrates on the Cell

Message from the Guest Editors

The healthy normal cornea is known as an avascular tissue. However, newly growing blood vessels, corneal neovascularization (NV), can invade into the cornea in various pathological conditions, such as infectious keratitis, injuries, and corneal transplantation. There are 12 million people who have vision impairment by corneal NV in the United States. The corneal NV process can be regulated by many growth factors, cytokines, chemokines, and MMPs. Particularly, MMPs participate in multiple cellular processes, including remodelling of basement membrane by breaking extracellular matrix (ECM). Interestingly, membrane-type MMPs are tethered to the plasma membrane and complexed with different substrates. This special issue will discuss various roles of MT1-MMP depending on which substrate interacts with it in pathological angiogenesis, corneal NV, and other diseases.

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