

Special Issue

Research on Dynamic Interaction of Matricellular Proteins and Their Receptors

Message from the Guest Editors

Extracellular matrix proteins (ECM) are constitutively expressed as essential structural components of organs and tissues and contribute to the morphological and functional integrity of organs and tissues. Within classical ECM, there are a unique group of molecules that are different from classical ECM in many ways. These are matricellular proteins. Matricellular proteins are transiently expressed during specific embryonic stages and in pathological and physiological conditions. Matricellular proteins contain many cellular binding domains, including hidden binding domains that can be exposed after protease cleavage and can bind to more than single cellular receptors, including integrins. Thus, components of tissue microenvironments such as proteases, pathogens, inflammation, and cell types are critical functional modifiers of matricellular proteins. The complex but tightly regulated interaction between matricellular proteins and their receptor leads to divergent physiological and pathological consequences in many organs and tissues. Authors are invited to review recent publications or submit original studies on Interactions of Matricellular Proteins and Their Receptors.

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