

Special Issue

Matricellular Proteins: Modifiers of Cell Behavior in Development, Disease & Tissue Remodeling

Message from the Guest Editors

Matricellular proteins were first described by the Bornstein group in 1995. Since then, they have become a major focus of research in the area of extracellular matrix and cell biology. As a class of matrix proteins, matricellular proteins are characterized by their ability to modify the cell phenotype in health and disease and have been implicated in numerous cancer types, acute healing, and fibrosis. Matricellular proteins are important during development, but are typically restricted to tissue remodeling, wound repair, and remodeling in the normal adult. Matricellular proteins interact with cell surface receptors, such as integrins, and are able to bind growth factors as well as the structural components of the matrix, such as collagen. Galectins, tenascins, thrombospondins, SPARC, osteopontin, hevin, periostin, and bone sialoprotein are all classed as matricellular proteins, each with varying functions. It appears that matricellular proteins are essential to the tissue response to pathological insults.

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