

Special Issue

Advanced Research on Matrix Metalloproteinases (MMPs)

Message from the Guest Editor

Matrix Metalloproteinases (MMPs) belong to the zinc-dependent superfamily of endopeptidases found in all cell organisms. They function as key regulators of many physiological and pathological processes through the degradation and remodeling of the extracellular matrix. Over the last few decades, increasing numbers of studies have supported the essential role of MMPs during embryogenesis when important developmental processes that require the modification of the extracellular environment take place. However, the involvement of MMPs in distinct morphogenetic events, such as cell migration and proliferation, cell polarity, angiogenesis, axon guidance, and synapse formation, necessitate further studies in order to understand the underlying molecular mechanisms that occur in the embryo. This Special Issue of the *International Journal of Molecular Sciences* focuses on the function of MMPs during embryonic development as well as their implications for diseases such as cancer and neurodegenerative disorders. We welcome both original research articles and review papers that deal with the molecular mechanisms underlying the role of MMP signaling during embryogenesis and disease.

Guest Editor

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Message from the Editor-in-Chief

The International Journal of Molecular Sciences (*IJMS*, ISSN 1422-0067) is an open access journal, which was established in 2000. The journal aims to provide a forum for scholarly research on a range of topics, including biochemistry, molecular and cell biology, molecular biophysics, molecular medicine, and all aspects of molecular research in chemistry. *IJMS* publishes both original research and review articles, and regularly publishes special issues to highlight advances at the cutting edge of research. We invite you to read recent articles published in *IJMS* and consider publishing your next paper with us.

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