

## Special Issue

# Melanosome Transport/Transfer and Melanin Pigmentation in the Skin

### Message from the Guest Editor

Melanin pigments are produced by melanocytes located in the basal layer of the epidermis and are transferred to keratinocytes. Further, melanin pigments are synthesized only in specialized organelles within melanocytes, termed melanosomes. Those melanosomes move along the cytoskeleton to the dendrites of melanocytes and are delivered to surrounding keratinocytes. Improper melanosome trafficking results in hyper- and hypo-pigmentary disorders such as melasma, age spots, Hermansky-Pudlak/Griscelli syndrome and vitiligo. In addition, in the dermis of post-inflammatory hyperpigmented lesion, the presence of melanophages containing multiple melanosomes are observed occasionally. Many studies have characterized the mechanisms of melanosome transport in melanocytes and melanosome transfer to keratinocytes, but many unknown factors still remain to be clarified. Through the elucidation of these mechanisms, the development of novel remedies for pigmentary disorders is expected.

### Guest Editor

Prof. Dr. Hideya Ando

Department of Applied Chemistry and Biotechnology, Okayama University of Science, 1-1 Ridai-cho, Kita-ku, Okayama 700-0005, Japan

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Editorial Office  
MDPI, Grosspeteranlage 5  
4052 Basel, Switzerland  
Tel: +41 61 683 77 34  
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### Editor-in-Chief

Prof. Dr. Maurizio Battino

Department of Odontostomatologic and Specialized Clinical Sciences,  
Sez-Biochimica, Faculty of Medicine, Università Politecnica delle  
Marche, Via Ranieri 65, 60100 Ancona, Italy

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