

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

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