

Special Issue

Melanosome Transport/Transfer and Melanin Pigmentation in the Skin 2.0

Message from the Guest Editors

Melanin pigments are produced by melanocytes located in the basal layer of the epidermis and transferred to keratinocytes. Melanin pigments are synthesized in specialized organelles within melanocytes, termed melanosomes. Melanosomes move along the cytoskeleton to the dendrites of melanocytes and are then transferred to surrounding keratinocytes, where they are processed and accumulate over the nucleus, forming supra-nuclear caps. Defective melanosome trafficking results in hyper- and hypo-pigmentary disorders such as melasma, age spots, Hermansky-Pudlak/Griscelli/Chediak-Higashi syndromes and vitiligo. Many studies have characterized the mechanisms of melanosome biogenesis and transport in melanocytes, but fewer have addressed the mechanisms of melanosome transfer to keratinocytes and further processing within these cells. Therefore, many unknown mechanisms remain to be clarified. In this Special Issue, reviews and original articles related to melanosome transport/transfer and melanin pigmentation, as well as research topics on the degradation/processing and polarization of melanin within keratinocytes, are welcome.

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