# Special Issue

# Osteogenic and Chondrogenic Differentiation of Mesenchymal Stem Cells

# Message from the Guest Editor

The concept of stem cells originated at the end of the 19th century because of the ability of certain tissues (blood, skin, etc.) to self-renew during their lifetime. Several years later, these cells were identified and isolated. Since then, methods for mesenchymal stem cell (MSC) isolation, characterization, expansion in culture and evaluation of differentiation abilities have been impressively investigated. In spite of the growing knowledge, several questions still remain open: the identification of the optimal cellular source, the molecular basis for MSC population heterogeneity among tissue sources, parts of the body, as well as different donors and cell phenotypes, the optimization of the expansion and differentiation protocols to achieve stable osteogenic and chondrogenic phenotypes, and the impact of senescence. In addition, signaling pathways, epigenetic regulation and cell-to-cell communications still need to be clarified. We welcome submissions, including original papers and reviews, on these open questions. It is expected that these findings may help to favor skeletal tissue repair and optimize MSC use to efficiently manage joint disease.

## **Guest Editor**

Prof. Dr. Monica de Mattei

Department of Medical Sciences, Section of Experimental, Medicine, School of Medicine, University of Ferrara, 44121 Ferrara, Italy

### Deadline for manuscript submissions

closed (15 November 2022)



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International Journal of Molecular Sciences Editorial Office MDPI, Grosspeteranlage 5 4052 Basel, Switzerland Tel: +41 61 683 77 34 ijms@mdpi.com

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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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