

Special Issue

Membrane Channels in Human Diseases: The Spanish Ion Channel Initiative Consortium (SICI)

Message from the Guest Editors

Ion channels are membrane proteins that play crucial roles in all forms of life and are highly conserved from bacteria to humans. Ion channel activity is an important pillar to cellular homeostasis and maintenance of health. Because of their contribution to the pathophysiology of several human maladies, these proteins are targets of many drugs, from antiepileptic to analgesics. In addition, they are also the off-targets of a plethora of molecules. Thus, ion channel dysfunction is at the onset of several human diseases known as channelopathies, as well as the unwanted drug side effects. The establishment of an integrative and pluridisciplinary ion channel research program brings together the complementary skills needed for advancing our current knowledge on the ion channel field, from pathophysiology to drug discovery. To accomplish this ambitious goal, the Spanish Ion Channel Initiative (SICI), an interinstitutional consortium, was established in Spain. SICI is a Network of Excellence on translational research that embraces all aspects of ion channels from genes to organisms, and from basic research to the clinic.

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