

Special Issue

The Tight Junction and Its Proteins: More Than Just a Barrier

Message from the Guest Editors

Tight junctions (TJ) are named according to their classical function to seal the cleft between epithelial and endothelial cells against unwanted passage of solutes and water. TJ proteins do not only form barriers but, in contrast, some constitute paracellular ion or water channels. Apart from barrier and channel functions, TJ proteins are involved in many other processes. They can serve as receptors for pathogens and mediate immunological reactions. Studies on TJ molecular assembly and interactions give further insight into the complex machinery of the development and control of tissue formation and cell differentiation. In several inflammatory diseases and during bacterial infections, TJ proteins are involved. In cancer, they serve as targets in tumor diagnostics and treatment; also, they can mediate epithelial-mesenchymal transition thereby facilitating tumorigenesis and metastasis. This Special Issue will include original articles as well as reviews on these topics.

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Deadline for manuscript submissions

closed (15 October 2019)



International Journal of Molecular Sciences

an Open Access Journal
by MDPI

Impact Factor 4.9
CiteScore 9.0
Indexed in PubMed



mdpi.com/si/23073

*International Journal of
Molecular Sciences*
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The International Journal of Molecular Sciences (*IJMS*, ISSN 1422-0067) is an open access journal, which was established in 2000. The journal aims to provide a forum for scholarly research on a range of topics, including biochemistry, molecular and cell biology, molecular biophysics, molecular medicine, and all aspects of molecular research in chemistry. *IJMS* publishes both original research and review articles, and regularly publishes special issues to highlight advances at the cutting edge of research. We invite you to read recent articles published in *IJMS* and consider publishing your next paper with us.

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