

Special Issue

Role of Non-coding RNAs and Untranslated RNA Regions in Disease

Message from the Guest Editor

The dysregulated expression of critical genes is one of the driving forces that transforms a normal cell into a cancer cell. In recent years, it has become clear that only 1–2% of the mammalian transcriptome codes for proteins. The remainder of the transcriptome comprises noncoding RNAs (ncRNAs), which are frequently dysregulated in cancer, suggesting that they are of critical importance in disease pathogenesis.

In addition to non-coding RNAs, protein-coding messenger RNAs (mRNAs) consist of 5' and 3' untranslated regions (UTRs), which flank their central protein-coding regions. These non-coding regions of protein-coding mRNAs harbor many regulatory sequences and structures. Intriguingly, recent studies have suggested that these non-coding regions can control tissue-specific transcript expression and may play key roles in cancer pathogenesis.

A better understanding of non-coding RNA biology will lead to deeper insights into carcinogenesis, and may facilitate the discovery of novel oncogenes and/or tumor suppressors, in turn providing potential diagnostic or therapeutic targets.

Guest Editor

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