

Special Issue

Functional Roles of Epithelial and Endothelial Cells

Message from the Guest Editors

Dear Colleagues Epithelial cells cover the surfaces of the body. For those that come into contact with the outside world, such as the skin and cornea, the epithelium protects the inner layers from external injuries that can arise from chemical, biological or physical insults. The importance of the epithelium is reinforced by the fact that the failed rapid closure of a wound can result in complications, such as scars, ulcers and infections. On the other hand, endothelial cells cover the inner surface of blood vessels (or the inner surface of the cornea for this specific tissue), forming a barrier that regulates exchanges between two structures. Apart from blood flow, the endothelium also plays key roles in immunology, inflammation, and angiogenesis. In this Special Issue, reviews and articles will demonstrate the importance of epithelial and endothelial functionality in tissue homeostasis, mainly but not restricted to the skin and cornea, using 2D (cell cultured) and 3D (tissue-engineered) models. Topics related to the regulation of cellular processes, intercellular communication, signaling pathways, pump-leak balance, and barrier functionality are welcomed.

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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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