

Special Issue

Molecular Mechanisms of Craniofacial Birth Defects

Message from the Guest Editors

The craniofacial structure is composed of multiple tissues and organs, including bones, cartilage, muscles, neuronal/nervous systems, exocrine glands, and teeth, and their malformations including craniosynostosis, facial microsomia, cleft lip with/without cleft palate, tooth agenesis, and amelogenesis/dentinogenesis imperfecta are among the most common congenital birth defects. The etiology of these malformations is the contribution of either genetic factors (isolated or syndromic), environmental factors, or both. Recently, the modulation of gene regulatory networks by pharmacological approaches has interested basic and clinical researchers as a strategy for the prevention of craniofacial malformations. This Special Issue focuses on the current understanding and new findings regarding the regulation of gene expression, signaling cascades, and patterning of cells during craniofacial development and in birth defects.

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