

Special Issue

Development, Aging and Repair of Elastic Fibers

Message from the Guest Editor

Elastic fibers, made from elastin (90%) and microfibrillar components (10%), are the extracellular matrix structures endowing extensible tissues with elasticity in vertebrates. They are therefore essential for the physiology of organs whose proper function is closely related to their mechanical properties. Besides, elastic fibers or their degradation products exert an important signalling role -through several membrane receptors- for many cell types.

Elastic fibers are essential for the function of several vital organs, developmental genetic disorders, later diseases and aging processes involving elastic fibers abnormality or degradation lead to severe disease/dysfunction and ultimately death. There is therefore a strong need for: (i) a better understanding of the -normal or abnormal- synthesis and degradation processes of elastic fibers, and (ii) innovative treatments allowing for either improvement of natural elastic fiber component synthesis/assembly, or abnormal/dysfunctional elastic fiber repair or replacement. Experimental papers and review articles about molecular research in the basic science, clinical or translational fields are welcome.

Guest Editor

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