

## Special Issue

# Links between Fibrogenesis and Cancer: Mechanistic and Therapeutic Challenges 2.0

### Message from the Guest Editor

Fibrosis is the end-stage of chronic inflammatory diseases. It is reversible at early stages but it becomes irreversible with advanced disease. However, the point of no return is unknown. Fibrosis may be the consequence of different pathological states including chronic inflammatory or infectious diseases, autoimmune disorders, graft rejection and malignancy; but in most cases the cause is unknown.

Studies on genetic factors or environmental agents playing a role in the excessive growth factor activity during fibrosis will also be part of this issue. Tumors have been identified in fibrotic tissues decades ago and now it is well recognized that fibrotic lesions enhance cancer risk. The mechanism linking fibrosis and cancer is unknown. This special topic will address cellular and molecular abnormalities that may provide insights into the pathological link between fibrogenesis and carcinogenesis. The pathogenic role of myofibroblasts is common in both fibrosis and cancer. Myofibroblasts are source of matrix proteins and their activity is an important prognostic indicator in both disorders.

Research dealing with the role of myofibroblasts will also be part of this special issue.

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### Guest Editor

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### Deadline for manuscript submissions

closed (1 September 2021)



## International Journal of Molecular Sciences

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Impact Factor 4.9  
CiteScore 9.0  
Indexed in PubMed



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*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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