Special Issue

Glucocorticoid Signaling Pathway: From Bench to Bedside

Message from the Guest Editors

Glucocorticoids are steroid hormones produced by the adrenal cortex and secreted into the systemic circulation in a circadian or stress-related fashion. Their secretion is under the complex control of the hypothalamic-pituitary-adrenal (HPA) axis, a major component of the stress system. Glucocorticoids play fundamental roles in the maintenance of resting and stress-related homeostasis.

Furthermore, glucocorticoid receptors are located within mitochondria where they may regulate cellular energy production. Either through genomic or non-genomic mechanisms, tissue glucocorticoid sensitivity is influenced by several factors, such as NR3C1 gene polymorphisms or mutations, presence of multiple hGR protein isoforms, an ever increasing number of interacting partners, including many proteins, as well as noncoding RNA molecules. Glucocorticoids have many epigenetic actions that can be stimulatory or inhibitory. In this special issue, we aim to present the diverse and complex actions of glucocorticoids through their intracellular signaling pathways from bench to bedside.

Guest Editors

Prof. Dr. George P. Chrousos

1. University Research Institute of Maternal and Child Health and Precision Medicine, UNESCO Chair on Adolescent Health Care, National and Kapodistrian University of Athens, 8 Livadias Street, Goudi, 11527 Athens, Greece
2. Center for Adolescent Medicine, UNESCO Chair on Adolescent Health Care, First Department of Pediatrics, School of Medicine, National and Kapodistrian University of Athens, "Aghia Sophia" Children's Hospital, 1 Thivon Street, Goudi, 11527 Athens, Greece

Dr. Nicolas C. Nicolaides

Division of Endocrinology, Metabolism and Diabetes, First Department of Pediatrics, National and Kapodistrian University of Athens Medical School, 11527 Athens, Greece

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Editorial Office
MDPI, Grosspeteranlage 5
4052 Basel, Switzerland
Tel: +41 61 683 77 34
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Editor-in-Chief

Prof. Dr. Maurizio Battino
Department of Odontostomatologic and Specialized Clinical Sciences, Sez-Biochimica, Faculty of Medicine, Università Politecnica delle Marche, Via Ranieri 65, 60100 Ancona, Italy

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