

Special Issue

Integrin Signalling in Cancer

Message from the Guest Editor

Comprised of 24 members, the integrin family members serve as receptors for various extracellular matrices that allow cells to adhere, create complex structures, and sense their environment. Originally named for their ability to integrate these extracellular signals to the cell's interior, integrins are responsible for amplifying and potentiating signals from growth factors and other extracellular stimuli that are critical for normal physiology. In fact, there are few, if any, physiological processes that are not influenced by integrin signaling in multicellular organisms. During malignant progression, tumor cells evolve complex interactions with their microenvironment, mediated in large part by integrins that influence progression and define the biology of the tumor. Dissecting the signaling pathways altered by integrin has given and will continue to contribute great insight into the processes that perpetuate a malignant phenotype. As our knowledge of cancer biology increases, so expands the variety of mechanisms we recognize that integrins influence that provide critical insight that may guide how new targeted therapies are devised.

Guest Editor

Prof. Kathleen L. O'Connor

Department of Molecular and Cellular Biochemistry, College of Medicine, University of Kentucky, Lexington, KY, USA

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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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