Special Issue

Current Mechanistic Understandings of Lymphedema and Lipedema

Message from the Guest Editors

While the external presentation of lymphedema and lipedema may appear similar, the diagnosis and molecular mechanisms underlying these conditions are quite varied. Lymphedema results from a genetic or acquired lymphatic deficiency, causing fluid accumulation, inflammation, and adipose tissue expansion. The pathological adipose expansion in lipedema, however, arises from an etiology that is yet to be well defined but potentially includes blood microvascular and lymphatic insufficiency, altered extracellular matrix composition, and dysfunctional adipose biology. It will be important to define how these traditionally understudied diseases are similar and yet distinct in order to meet their unique needs in terms of diagnostics and treatment options. This Special Issue will publish original articles as well as full reviews that cover the current understanding and molecular and physiological mechanisms that are shared between, and importantly, unique to either lymphedema and lipedema. Manuscripts need not cover both pathologies, but rather should present novel findings about early diagnostics and molecular mechanisms defining what we know and the key remaining questions.

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