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Immune Microenvironment in Solid and Hematological Malignancies

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Message from the Guest Editor

The aim of this issue is to provide an overview of current knowledge on the crucial mechanisms promoting tumor niche interactions and mediating immunosuppression during cancer development and progression. Despite significant improvements in therapy during the last decade, most cancer patients develop refractory disease over time. Treatment of refractory malignancy is a major challenge, likely due to the still poorly characterized inter- and intratumor heterogeneity and the complex interplay of neoplastic cells with the tumor microenvironment. In particular, there is an urgent need to unravel how these features of the cancer neighborhood are linked to molecular mechanisms of drug resistance and aggressive phenotype. As is now well known, tumors grow and evolve through a constant crosstalk with the surrounding milieu, and emerging evidence indicates that several gatekeepers and immune-tolerogenic environments frequently occur simultaneously in response to this crosstalk. Accordingly, strategies combining anti-tumor therapy and immunotherapy seem to hold the promise to tip the balance of the cancer niche and improve patient outcomes. I look forward to collaborating with you.



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