



The Past, Present and Future of Photodynamic Therapy for Cancers

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Message from the Guest Editors

Photodynamic therapy was introduced more than one hundred years ago as a method that needed three elements to create local toxicity: a photosensitizer, light, and oxygen. Many preclinical studies and clinical trials have been conducted showing the great potential of this local cancer therapy, which has also been described to lead to systemic effects through activation of the immune system. Those studies led to the regulatory approval of PDT as a cancer treatment. Nonetheless, it is generally accepted that this treatment modality is still underutilized in the clinic. The Special Issue aims to assemble significant contributions in the following categories:

1. Crucial *past* efforts made in this field;
2. Insights into the *present* applications of PDT in the clinic;
3. Current developments focused on improving PDT, such as but not limited to:
Macromolecular targeting of photosensitizers;
Nanoparticles as photosensitizers' delivery vehicles;
Light delivery and dosimetry;
Combination of PDT with other therapies;
Immunological component of PDT;
Alternatives for hypoxic tumors;
4. Perspectives on the *future* of PDT.





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