

Special Issue

Potential Pathogenic Mechanisms of Multiple Sclerosis

Message from the Guest Editors

Knowledge of the mechanisms that underlie the development of multiple sclerosis (MS) is important for appropriate therapeutic interventions. However, the initiating events that lead to MS are still unknown, and the relative merits of “outside-in” (i.e., autoimmune) vs. “inside-out” (i.e., primary central nervous system damage) models for development of MS have been debated. Genetics undoubtedly play an important role in susceptibility to MS, but the relative contribution of individual genes remains to be determined, and little is yet known of genes that affect the course of disease. Female gender is one of the major risk factors for MS, but, conversely, some uniquely female events such as pregnancy are protective in MS. Environmental factors (diet, gut flora, stress, exposure to chemicals, toxins or UVB) are also likely to influence the pathogenesis of MS. Even cell types once thought to be of little interest in MS (e.g., neutrophils, platelets) are now being proposed as important players in development of disease. The present Special Issue aims to explore these potential pathogenic mechanisms in more detail.

Guest Editors

Dr. Judith Greer

Centre for Clinical Research, The University of Queensland, Brisbane, Australia

Prof. Pamela McCombe

Professor of Neurology, Faculty of Medicine, The University of Queensland, St Lucia, Australia

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Journal of Clinical Medicine
Editorial Office
MDPI, Grosspeteranlage 5
4052 Basel, Switzerland
Tel: +41 61 683 77 34
jcm@mdpi.com

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