

Special Issue

The Pathogenesis of Pulmonary Sarcoidosis and Implications for Treatment

Message from the Guest Editors

Sarcoidosis is a rare systemic granulomatous disease of unknown cause(s) that initiates in genetically predisposed individuals a disproportionate inflammatory response leading to granuloma formation. For most patients, spontaneous resolution or short courses of glucocorticoids will take place; however, absence of response to existing lines of treatment will lead to a reduced quality of life with dyspnea, fatigue, and severe disabilities associated with pulmonary, cardiac, and nervous system impairment. Both the innate and adaptive immune systems are involved in sarcoidosis pathogenesis. Factors influencing the disease course towards clinical resolution versus chronic disease and fibrosis remain unknown and represent major targets for the development of new treatment strategies to replace/enhance current therapies, including steroids and/or biologic agents. Identification of new mechanisms in the pathogenesis of sarcoidosis should help us to better understand the variability in disease course amongst patients and to develop more effective treatments for sarcoidosis.

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