

Special Issue

Feature Studies in Adiponectin: Toward Understanding the Complexities of Adiponectin Biology

Message from the Guest Editor

Among the adipokines, adiponectin is attracting a great deal of attention due to its multiple actions: it appears to be involved in different physiological conditions, and to have a relevant role in maintaining the homeostasis of the whole body. In addition to this, several studies report adiponectin as a hormone capable of exerting beneficial effects as an antidiabetic, antiatherosclerotic, antiapoptotic and anti-inflammatory agent in both animals and humans. The hormone has also been shown to have a role in suppressing lipogenesis and gluconeogenesis, and in increasing fatty acid oxidation and energy consumption. Adiponectin receptors are indeed expressed both in the brain and in peripheral tissues, and show different affinities for specific adiponectin isoforms. Post-translational modifications are important for the determination of adiponectin functionality.

Given the heterogeneity of actions of adiponectin and considering that all its possible mechanisms of action have not yet been clarified, understanding the complexity underlying the hormone biology acquires considerable scientific value for the whole community.

Guest Editor

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