

Special Issue

Origins, Properties, and Therapeutic Perspectives of Cancer Stem Cells

Message from the Guest Editors

Cancer is a multifactorial disease accounting for nearly 10 million deaths worldwide. One of the greatest challenges for cancer therapeutics is the heterogeneity of cancer cells. Specifically, a small subpopulation of cells, named cancer stem cells (CSCs), is identified in almost all cancer types. These cells exhibit a set of stem-like properties, e.g., altered cell cycle regulation, multipotency, self-renewal, tumorigenicity and enhanced metastatic potential. CSCs can survive through chemotherapy and/or radiation therapy, thus leading to cancer recurrence. Considering the clinical perspectives of CSCs, it is important to investigate their origins as well as their function during cancer transformation and progression processes. Finally, it is crucial to characterize CSC biomarkers and to identify novel strategies for targeting these cells. In this Special Issue, novel findings will be presented regarding all aspects of CSC research, including their origins, properties, biomarkers, and clinical relevance, as well as novel therapeutic approaches targeting CSCs.

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