

Special Issue

Non-coding RNAs in Cellular Differentiation, Development, and Diseases

Message from the Guest Editors

Diverse classes of non-coding RNAs have been identified in the mammalian genome, broadly classified based on the length as small and long ncRNAs. Small ncRNAs are again classified as micro and non-micro small RNAs. MicroRNAs regulate post-transcriptional gene expression and are implicated in almost all aspects of biological processes. The non-micro small RNAs are relatively new but seem to have critical biological functions. On the other hand, long ncRNAs play a biological role through diverse mechanisms. Long ncRNAs are versatile molecules that can interact physically with DNA, protein, and RNA either through nucleotide base pairing or via the formation of secondary structure and regulate gene expression. Growing evidence suggests that non-coding RNAs regulate almost every necessary cellular process, and the expression of these molecules is strictly regulated in normal physiological conditions. Since expression of the ncRNAs is dysregulated in numerous human diseases, these molecules have a great potential to be used as a new generation of therapeutic and diagnostic molecules.

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