



Naturally-Occurring Peptides and Proteins as Leads for Drug Discovery and Development

Guest Editor:

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Deadline for manuscript
submissions:

closed (1 February 2024)

Message from the Guest Editor

The field of endocrinology first emerged with the discovery of secretin, a gut hormone. It was afternoon, 16 January 1902, at University College Hospital, London (United Kingdom). The initial breakthrough was the brisk secretion of pancreatic juice following the irrigation of a denervated loop of small bowel with dilute HCl, accompanied by claims about a chemical messenger released from the acidified intestine to mediate the response. Since this initial report of Bayliss and Starling (*J. Physiol. (Lond)* 28, 325-353, 1902), and subsequent discoveries (i.e., gastrin), the intention has remained the same: to illustrate the importance of the naturally occurring peptides and proteins as leads for drug discovery and development. However, thanks to these advances, long-term approaches could now be determined with precision. New vistas, new naturally occurring peptides, and new breakthroughs might provide novel insights and improve therapy with novel drug discovery and development.





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