Special Issue

Insulin-Like Growth Factor-1 (IGF-1) Receptor as Drug Targets

Message from the Guest Editors

Insulin-like growth factor 1 (IGF-1) plays an important role in human development, growth, and aging, IGF-1 exerts its effects through specific receptors located on cell membranes, i.e., IGF-R (insulin-like growth factor-1 and 2 receptors). Through these receptors, IGF-1 induces cell growth, affects cell survival by preventing apoptosis, and stimulates cell differentiation. Abnormal IGF signaling may lead to changes in systemic homeostasis, including cognitive dysfunction, development of neurodegenerative diseases, and most importantly, malignant transformation and tumor progression. In tumorigenesis, IGF-1 and its receptor are constitutively overexpressed. Increasing evidence suggests that the IGF axis not only promotes oncogenesis but also confers resistance to standard treatment. Given the high mortality rate of cancer patients, novel therapeutic targets are urgently needed. Hence, regulation of IGF-1/IGF-1R axis signaling appears to be a promising strategy leading to the disruption of cancer cell growth and survival.

Guest Editors

Dr. Kornelia Kuźnik-Trocha

Department of Clinical Chemistry and Laboratory Diagnostics, Faculty of Pharmaceutical Sciences in Sosnowiec, Medical University of Silesia, Katowice, Poland

Prof. Dr. Katarzyna Winsz-Szczotka

Department of Clinical Chemistry and Laboratory Diagnostics, Faculty of Pharmaceutical Sciences in Sosnowiec, Medical University of Silesia, Sosnowiec, Poland

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Pharmaceuticals
Editorial Office
MDPI, Grosspeteranlage 5
4052 Basel, Switzerland
Tel: +41 61 683 77 34
pharmaceuticals@mdpi.com

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Editor-in-Chief

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Departamento de Química e Bioquímica (DQB) e Centro de Química Estrutural (CQE), Institute of Molecular Sciences, Faculdade de Ciências, Universidade de Lisboa, Lisboa, Portugal

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