

Special Issue

Mesenchymal Stem/Stromal Cell-Based-Delivery for Clinical Applications

Message from the Guest Editors

Mesenchymal stem/stromal cells (MSCs) represent a heterogeneous subset of cells arising from pericytes, which can be isolated from various adult tissues, such as bone marrow, adipose tissue, the dental pulp, muscle, skin, placenta, and umbilical cord blood. MSCs are able to recognize the signals of tissue damage and to release bioactive molecules capable of modulating the local immune response, by establishing a pro-regenerative microenvironment, stimulating angiogenesis, promoting proliferation of tissue-specific progenitors, and inhibiting cell apoptosis and tissue fibrosis. Furthermore, MSCs are able to recognize and direct themselves towards distant damaged tissues (homing), where they exercise these medicinal activities principally orchestrated by the paracrine secretion of a broad repertoire of growth factors, chemokines, and cytokines. An important aspect related to the therapeutic potential of MSCs concerns their ability to secrete extracellular vesicles of different sizes, which can act as paracrine mediators, transporting proteins, mRNAs and microRNAs to specific target sites, ensuring a targeted therapeutic approach.

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Deadline for manuscript submissions

closed (30 October 2024)



Pharmaceutics

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Impact Factor 5.5
CiteScore 10.0
Indexed in PubMed



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