Special Issue

Aptamer-Based Targeted Conjugates for Diagnostic and Therapeutic Applications

Message from the Guest Editors

The mainstay of a therapeutic intervention is to specifically target diseased cells or tissues at high accuracy with low frequency of adverse side effects. One possibility to reach this goal is to use disease-specific ligands as delivery agents to drive therapeutic cargos to the diseased sites while sparing the healthy ones. Oligonucleotide aptamers, analogously to protein antibodies, interact tightly with their targets because of their complex shapes, thus representing a useful class of molecular recognition probes in various diagnostic and therapeutic applications. The quick chemical production, design flexibility, and versatile chemical modification that allow different conjugation chemistries renders aptamers ideal targeting moieties in advanced targeted delivery strategies. Antibody-based targeted therapeutics provide high target specificity and affinity. The present Special Issue will include original research articles and review articles aimed at covering new synthetic methodologies of aptamer conjugates as well as their novel applications.

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