Special Issue

Amino Acid Chirality

Message from the Guest Editor

D-isomers of amino acids are uncommon in living organisms; in fact, they are usually called “non-natural” amino acids. Moreover, D-stereoisomers were long considered to have minor functions in biological processes compared to L-ones. On the other hand, evidence has shown that D-amino acids are present in bacterial cell walls, antibiotics, mammals, and in humans and also that they possess specific biological functions. D-amino acids, having unique stereochemistry properties, present increased resistance towards most endogenous enzymes, and their metabolisms are associated with neurological disorders, such as schizophrenia, ischemia, epilepsy and neurodegeneration. This Special Issue intends to cover recent advances in the chemistry and the therapeutic uses of D-amino acids. This includes identification in a prebiotic scenario, the preparation, the incorporation in peptides and peptidomimetics, and their biological evaluations.

Guest Editor

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Message from the Editor-in-Chief

Symmetry is ultimately the most important concept in natural sciences. It is not surprising then that very basic and fundamental research achievements are related to symmetry. For instance, the Nobel Prize in Physics 1979 (Glashow, Salam, Weinberg) was received for a unified symmetry description of electromagnetic and weak interactions, while the Nobel Prize in Physics 2008 (Nambu, Kobayashi, Maskawa) was received for the discovery of the mechanism of spontaneous breaking of symmetry, including CP symmetry. Our journal is named *Symmetry* and it manifests its fundamental role in nature.

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