

Special Issue

Symmetric and Asymmetric Cellular Membranes

Message from the Guest Editor

The structure and function of cellular membranes remains among the most challenging areas in both the life and physical sciences. Cellular membranes are complex assemblies that play an active role in many cellular functions. Many of these membrane functions rely on a diverse scaffold of lipids, sterols, proteins and carbohydrates; all of which organize both in the plane of the membrane (laterally) and across the leaflets of the membrane (transversely). Of recent years, the investigation of trans-membrane symmetry (or lack thereof) has become a topic of widespread interest. Probing symmetries within cellular membranes has proven a necessity due to the ubiquity of trans-bilayer asymmetry in natural cell membranes. Understanding the membrane -- its structure, its dynamic behavior and its function -- relies on cutting edge experimental techniques and the creativity membrane researchers from all disciplines. We welcome contributions on any area or aspect (including experimental approaches) of symmetry/asymmetry of cellular membranes.

Guest Editor

Dr. Drew Marquardt

1. Department of Chemistry & Biochemistry, University of Windsor, ON, Canada
2. Department of Physics, University of Windsor, ON, Canada

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

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About the Journal

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.

Editor-in-Chief

Prof. Dr. Sergei Odintsov

1. ICREA, 08010 Barcelona, Spain

2. Institute of Space Sciences (IEEC-CSIC), C. Can Magrans s/n, 08193 Barcelona, Spain

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