Special Issue

Extracellular Vesicles: A New Mechanism of Intercellular Communication for Immune Regulation in Cancer, Autoimmune Diseases, and Infectious Diseases

Message from the Guest Editor

Extracellular vesicles (EVs), released by eukaryotes, archaea, and bacteria, are universal and evolutionally conserved mechanisms for intercellular communication. EVs carry various active biomolecules, such as DNA, RNA, proteins, and lipids, and deliver them to adjacent and distant cells in the body. Previous studies have demonstrated intercellular communication between the immune system and interacting cells via EVs. Recent studies have further developed engineered EVs to modulate the immune system. EVs can be found in the blood as well. Therefore, the assessment of circulating EVs is an active area of research for identifying reliable biomarkers of disease progression and therapy response. Imaging techniques to monitor the efficiency of immune-modulatory or therapeutic EVs are also being developed. Despite the exciting potential of EVs as clinical therapeutics, however, additional work is needed to fully characterize their biodistribution and pharmacokinetics, as well as reproducible EV production.

Guest Editor

Dr. Masamitsu Kanada

Institute for Quantitative Health Science and Engineering (IQ), Department of Pharmacology and Toxicology, College of Human Medicine, Michigan State University, East Lansing, MI, USA

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

mdpi.com/journal/vaccines

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Vaccines (ISSN 2076-393X) has had a 6-year history of publishing peer-reviewed state of the art research that advances the knowledge of immunology in human disease protection. Immunotherapeutics, prophylactic vaccines, immunomodulators, adjuvants and the global differences in regulatory affairs are some of the highlights of the research published that have shaped global health. Our open access policy allows all researchers and interested parties to immediately scrutinize the rigorous evidence our publications have to offer. We are proud to present the work and perspectives of many to contribute to future decisions concerning human health.

Editor-in-Chief

Prof. Dr. Ralph A. Tripp
Department of Infectious Diseases, College of Veterinary Medicine, University of Georgia, Athens, GA 30602-7387, USA

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