



an Open Access Journal by MDPI

## **Colorectal Cancer: Biology and Therapy**

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Deadline for manuscript submissions:

closed (30 June 2019)

## **Message from the Guest Editors**

Dear Colleagues,

Colorectal cancer (CRC) is a common malignant disease and its incidence in clinical practice has increased gradually. CRC is considered to be heterogeneous with multiple genetic mutations and epigenetic alterations in genes that control cellular growth and differentiation. A number of molecular genetic studies have identified several gene defects and mutations related to sporadic CRC. In addition, other factors, including chronic inflammation, such as inflammatory bowel diseases, and metabolic syndrome are also predisposing factors to CRC development. While significant advances have been made in research for molecular biology and characterization, as well as detecting, diagnosing, therapy of CRC over the past decade, this disease still has a high mortality rate. A better understanding of the biology of CRC will lead to reduction of incidence, development of novel therapies, and improved prognosis.

This Special Issue of *Gastrointestinal Disorders* will focus on the biology of CRC in relation to existing and newly developed therapies.

Prof. Dr. Masahito Shimizu Prof. Dr. Yohei Shirakami *Guest Editors* 



