



## Galectins (Gals)

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### Message from the Guest Editor

Dear Colleagues,

Galectins are a family of soluble proteins expressed in a broad range of animal species and present in various cell types. All these proteins share a common Carbohydrate Recognition Domain (CRD), which is directly involved in carbohydrate binding, in particular to b-galactose residues. The CRD, highly conserved in the family, consists of approximately 130 amino acids organized in a typical b-sandwich fold. Galectins are mammalian lectins involved in many roles, including immune regulation, cancer cell growth, and apoptosis. Galectin research is becoming increasingly important thanks to the different roles they can play in many applications as disease biomarkers, therapeutic agents, and drug targets. Given their multiple roles in infectious diseases, Galectins have emerged as a modern drug target in a broad range of infections. Many multidisciplinary approaches, encompassing molecular modeling and design, synthetic, and biological chemistry as well as biological characterization, emphasize the needs to identify and to valid new synthetic and natural molecules with a specific biological activity as the modulators of Galectins in cancer and/or infection treatments.





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