



Links between Fibrogenesis and Cancer: Mechanistic and Therapeutic Challenges

Guest Editor:

Prof. Dr. Esteban C. Gabazza

Professor and Chairman,
Department of Immunology,
Faculty and Graduate School of
Medicine, Mie University,
Edobashi 2-174, Tsu city, Mie 514-
8507, Japan

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Message from the Guest Editor

Fibrosis is the end-stage of chronic inflammatory diseases. It is reversible at early stages but it becomes irreversible with advanced disease. However, the point of no return is unknown. Fibrosis may be the consequence of different pathological states including chronic inflammatory or infectious diseases, autoimmune disorders, graft rejection and malignancy; but in most cases the cause is unknown. Studies on genetic factors or environmental agents playing a role in the excessive growth factor activity during fibrosis will also be part of this issue. Tumors have been identified in fibrotic tissues decades ago and now it is well-recognized that fibrotic lesions enhance cancer risk. The mechanism linking fibrosis and cancer is unknown. This special topic will address cellular and molecular abnormalities that may provide insights into the pathological link between fibrogenesis and carcinogenesis. The pathogenic role of myofibroblasts is common in both fibrosis and cancer. Myofibroblasts are source of matrix proteins and their activity is an important prognostic indicator in both disorders. Research dealing with the role of myofibroblasts will also be part of this special issue.





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Editor-in-Chief

Prof. Dr. Maurizio Battino

Department of
Odontostomatologic and
Specialized Clinical Sciences,
Sez-Biochimica, Faculty of
Medicine, Università Politecnica
delle Marche, Via Ranieri 65,
60100 Ancona, Italy

Message from the Editor-in-Chief

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*International Journal of Molecular
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MDPI, Grosspeteranlage 5
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