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Targeted Therapy for Breast Cancer: Focus on the Apoptosis Pathway

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Message from the Guest Editors

Apoptosis is a type of programmed cell death. There are two major types of apoptosis pathway: 1) intrinsic pathways that are initiated by intracellular pathways such as DNA damage, ER stress, hypoxia, and metabolic stress, and 2) extrinsic pathways that are initiated by death receptor activation (TRAILR and FAS) from a signal outside cells. Apoptosis resistance is a hallmark of human cancer, and apoptosis regulators have been targeted for drug development regarding cancer treatment. Breast cancer is a heterogeneous disease that often develops resistance toward standard care treatments, such as hormone therapy, anti-HER2 therapy, chemotherapy, or radiotherapy. It has been reported that anti-apoptotic BCL-2 family members are frequently found to be up-regulated in breast cancer and correlate with poor prognosis. In this issue, we welcome original research and review articles that discuss the discovery of novel mechanisms of apoptosis, potential drug targets, biomarkers, and new inhibitors that may overcome apoptosis resistance and provide effective therapeutic approaches for use in the treatment of breast cancer.



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Message from the Editor-in-Chief

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