



Role of Adipose Organ in Metabolism and Disease

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Message from the Guest Editor

Obesity is the fifth leading cause of death worldwide. At the end of 18th Century, the Italian anatomist Gian Battista Morgagni defined illness as a condition in which a pathologic organ can be demonstrated. White adipose tissue of obese animals and humans is inflamed by a chronic low-grade inflammation sustained mainly by macrophages. These cells are scavengers attracted in the obese adipose tissues by remnants derived from death of hypertrophic white adipocytes.

Together with white adipocytes that store lipids for metabolic needs, there are also brown adipocytes with different physiology: they burn lipids for thermogenesis.

Both adipocytes are contained together into a dissectible structure fulfilling the definition of organ: dissectible structure formed at least by two different tissues cooperating each other.

In this issue the human adipose organ and its implication for obesity is described. Several metabolic and pathologic aspects deriving and connected to this new concept are also described in this issue.





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Message from the Editor-in-Chief

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