



Targeting the Hedgehog Signaling Pathway in Cancer

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Message from the Guest Editor

The Hedgehog signaling pathway is an evolutionarily conserved signaling pathway crucial for embryonic development and tissue patterning. It is mostly inactive in the differentiated tissues of adult organisms, except in the stem cell compartment. It regulates many cellular processes, such as proliferation, differentiation, epithelial-mesenchymal transition and stem cell maintenance.

Hedgehog signaling is frequently upregulated in various cancers, the mechanisms are complex and often depend on the tumor microenvironment and the tumor–stroma communication. Regardless of the mechanism, activation of the Hedgehog pathway is associated with cancer cell proliferation, survival and metastasis, as well as drug resistance. Additional complexity in Hedgehog signal transduction is added by the non-canonical signal transduction, which can activate the pathway independently of the ligand binding/membrane components, and by the cross-talk with other signaling pathways.

This Special Issue focuses on the role of Hedgehog signaling in cancer, its cross-talk with other signaling pathways and its potential as a diagnostic, prognostic and therapeutic target.

Dr. Maja Sabol
Guest Editor





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Message from the Editor-in-Chief

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