



Recent Advances in Proteoglycans

Guest Editor:

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Message from the Guest Editor

Proteoglycans are a ubiquitous family of heavily glycosylated proteins with distinct forms and functions. Over the past 20 years, advancements in elucidating various structural subtypes and identifying cellular locations of proteoglycans have led to the development of a complex classification system for proteoglycans. Proteoglycans can localize either intracellularly as components of secretory granules being anchored to the cell surface or by spanning the cell membrane in addition to being localized in the pericellular region as components of the basement membrane. The largest class of proteoglycans is, however, secreted into the extracellular space. These secreted proteoglycans are key structural components of cartilage, blood vessels, and the central nervous system and have the canonical role of maintaining the architecture of various tissues. In addition, secreted proteoglycans can interact with various receptors either as ligands or via their ability to interact with the natural ligands of these receptors, resulting in indirect regulation of receptor activation.





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