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Molecular Targets for Breast Cancer Therapy

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Message from the Guest Editor

After the cytotoxic chemotherapy era that was stained with horrific toxicities and multi-drug resistance, “molecularly targeted drugs” brought new hope to the battle against cancer. Despite the occasional introduction of new drugs, resistance seems to be inevitable. A sub-population of the tumor cells often fails to respond favorably to the initial treatment (likely due to tumor cell heterogeneity causing intrinsic resistance). This “Darwinian clone selection” is documented in different types of cancer in response to a variety of molecularly targeted drugs. On the other hand, initially responsive cells become resistant shortly after repeated doses (acquired resistance), which, in addition to point mutations, could be due to the plasticity of cancer cells that have access to a variety of signaling pathways that can compensate for the targeted protein. Therefore, the identification of new targets is crucial for overcoming these obstacles. This Special Issue focuses on breast cancer and sheds the spotlight on the most recent efforts in the identification of novel molecular targets or the newly discovered crosstalk among the established signaling pathways.

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