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Calcium Signaling in Cell Function and Dysfunction

Guest Editors:

Dr. Giorgia Pallafacchina
1. Neuroscience Institute, CNR (Italian National Research Council), Padua, Italy
2. Department of Biomedical Sciences, University of Padua, Padua, Italy

Dr. Sofia Zanin
Laboratory for Genetics of Mitochondrial Disorders, UMR 1163, Institut Imagine, Université de Paris, Paris, France

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Message from the Guest Editors

The role of Ca^{2+} signaling in the context of cell function and cell survival is undoubtedly crucial and universally recognized. Indeed, variations in the intracellular Ca^{2+} level have been associated with a plethora of different stimuli and cellular responses, from fertilization to neuronal transmission to muscle contraction and endocrine secretion, just to name the most renowned. As a consequence, the dynamics of Ca^{2+} signaling need to be finely orchestrated and tightly regulated within the cell; any eventual alteration of Ca^{2+} homeostasis is likely to lead to the impairment of cell functions, impacting on cell survival and eventually conducting to cell and organ dysfunction. It is no surprise that the presence of a defective Ca^{2+} handling is a common hallmark of many human pathologies, including neurodegeneration, cardiac failure, diabetes, muscle dystrophies and cancer. In this light, the aim of this Special Issue is to provide new evidence and revise the published literature about the role of Ca^{2+} signaling, and the associated regulatory machinery, in the context of cell and tissue function both in physiological conditions as well as in stress, damage and disease conditions.

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Editors-in-Chief

Prof. Dr. Peter E. Nielsen
Department of Cellular and Molecular Medicine, Faculty of Health and Medical Sciences, University of Copenhagen, Blegdamsvej 3C, DK-2200 Copenhagen, Denmark

Prof. Dr. Lukasz Kurgan
Department of Computer Science, Virginia Commonwealth University, Richmond, VA 23284, USA

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Biomolecules Editorial Office
MDPI, Grosspeteranlage 5
4052 Basel, Switzerland

Tel: +41 61 683 77 34
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