



Synuclein Proteins

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Message from the Guest Editors

All synucleins have a conserved α -helical lipid-binding motif similar to those of apolipoproteins. The α - and β -synuclein proteins are found primarily in brain tissue, where they are seen mainly in presynaptic terminals. The γ -synuclein protein is found primarily in the peripheral nervous system and retina, but also in breast tumours. Cellular functions of the synuclein proteins vary, with data suggesting a common role in the regulation of membrane stability. They have also been demonstrated to form aggregates. Recently, roles in tumour progression and neurodegeneration have been described. Mutations in α -synuclein are associated with rare familial cases of early-onset Parkinson's disease, and the protein accumulates abnormally forming part of Lewy bodies in Parkinson's disease and several other neurodegenerative illnesses. This Special Issue seeks to understand the normal cellular function of these proteins and how they might contribute to the development of human disease. Original manuscripts and reviews dealing with any aspect of synucleins and related pathophysiology are very welcome.





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