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Autophagy and Therapy Resistance in Cancers

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Message from the Guest Editors

Macroautophagy (or autophagy) is a highly evolutionarily conserved process that carries important homeostatic functions in response to various stressful stimuli. While its roles in drug resistance in cancers are far from clear, there is accumulating evidence that autophagy promotes chemoresistance in many cancer cell types and experimental models. Additionally, autophagy supports the survival of hypoxic cells, which further limits the effectiveness of chemo- and/or radiotherapy. The use of autophagy inhibitors such as chloroquine and gene silencing of specific autophagy-related genes have been shown to sensitize cancer cells to chemotherapeutic agents and radiation. One of the focuses of this issue is to further our understanding of the molecular basis underlying autophagy-related therapy resistance and to explore new ways that synergize with this process to kill cancer cells more efficiently. As recent studies have revealed the link between autophagy and stemness, it will be of interest to examine how autophagy may contribute to the high level of chemoresistance in cancer stem-like cells.

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Message from the Editor-in-Chief

Cancers is an international online journal addressing both clinical and basic science issues related to cancer research. The journal is publishing in Open Access format, which will certainly evolve to ensure that the journal takes full advantage of the rapidly changing world of information and knowledge dissemination. It publishes high-quality clinical, translational, and basic science research on cancer prevention, initiation, progression, and treatment, as well as other related topics, particularly to capture the most seminal studies in the rapidly growing area of immunology, immunotherapy, and tumor microenvironment.

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