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Bone Morphogenetic Protein (BMP) Signaling in Health and Diseases

Guest Editor:

Prof. Dr. Blanca Herrera

Faculty of Pharmacy,
Department Biochemistry and
Molecular Biology, Complutense
University of Madrid, Health
Research Institute of the Hospital
Clínico San Carlos, Madrid, Spain

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Message from the Guest Editor

BMP family members are involved in a wide-ranging and continuously expanding number of functions, including dorsal-ventral pattern formation, morphogenesis, organogenesis, cell differentiation, and lineage direction of stem cells. In adult organisms, BMPs also control several cellular processes, including cell proliferation, differentiation, apoptosis/survival, autophagy, chemotaxis, and migration/invasion in many different cell types, and they play critical roles in different organ systems.

BMP signaling is extensively regulated at different levels: extracellularly, by a plethora of receptors, co-receptors, and agonist and antagonist extracellular molecules; and intracellularly, where finely tuned Smad and non-Smad signaling pathways modulate downstream cellular responses.

Thus, dysregulation of BMP signaling has pathological consequences, and accumulating evidence points at BMPs as the epicenter of many human diseases. Furthermore, BMPs signaling is seen as a clinical target with therapeutic potential.

- BMPs
- Signaling
- Smad and Non-Smad signaling
- Metabolism
- Disease



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Contact Us

Cells Editorial Office
MDPI, Grosspeteranlage 5
4052 Basel, Switzerland

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