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Human Brown Adipose Tissues

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Message from the Guest Editor

Dear Colleagues,

The presence of brown adipose tissue (BAT) in adult humans was described as early as 1908 in autopsy reports by Edmond Bonnot. More than one hundred years later, the human BATs were rediscovered. Under physiological conditions, the activities of human BATs are augmented by cold stimuli, beta3-adrenergic signals, and atrial natriuretic peptide. Pathological conditions such as cancer cachexia can induce hyperactivation of BATs although the critical mediators for cachexia induction remain undetermined. Despite several reports regarding the candidate molecules, their main producers are not BATs per se in most cases, and therefore, there may be still undiscovered BATokines that play crucial roles in metabolism regulation. Since there is a large hurdle in obtaining high-quality human BAT samples from technical and ethical points of view, human pluripotent stem cells(hPSC)-derived brown adipocytes (BA) have been providing a beneficial tool to study human BATs. To solve the mysteries of human BATs, findings obtained from animal experiments, clinical research, and hPSC-derived BA-based studies should effectively be integrated in tight collaboration among researchers.



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Special Issue



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