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Extracellular and Organismal Proteostasis

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Message from the Guest Editor

Dear Colleagues,

Our current understanding of the mechanisms that maintain protein homeostasis (proteostasis) in extracellular body fluids is limited. A failure or dysfunction of these processes leads to physiologically dangerous levels of misfolded, aggregated and potentially cytotoxic extracellular proteins, resulting in the development of a variety of serious human diseases. These secreted ECs are thought to recognise and specifically bind to extracellular misfolded proteins to maintain their solubility, neutralise their toxicity, and mediate their safe disposal. However, it is almost certain that other, yet-to-be-discovered processes play important roles in extracellular proteostasis. As one example, some of the identified ECs are known to also act as protease inhibitors. Advances that increase our understanding of extracellular proteostasis are essential for the future development of strategies to treat currently untreatable diseases.

The goal of this Special Issue is to present current knowledge of the mechanisms operating in extracellular proteostasis and to identify important knowledge gaps in the field.

Professor Mark R. Wilson

Guest Editor



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Special Issue



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