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Molecular Insights into Sphingolipids

Guest Editor:

Prof. Dr. Elisabetta Meacci
Department of Experimental and Clinical Biomedical Sciences "Mario Serio", University of Florence, 50134 Firenze, Italy

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Message from the Guest Editor

A strong case is emerging that bioactive sphingolipids, although only a minor constituent of the global lipid milieu in cells and tissues, play a central role in regulating metabolic functions. Specific bioactive sphingolipids have been identified as physiological and pathogenic mediators in metabolic disorders, such as non-alcoholic fatty liver disease (NAFLD), diabetes, or cardiovascular dysfunctions, as well as multifactorial disease such as cancer. Circulating mediators that are released from adipose tissue (e.g., adipokines, inflammatory cytokines) specifically modulate enzymes that are involved in sphingolipid synthesis and degradation. Striking progress has been made over the last few years in elucidating the complex crosstalk between sphingolipids, especially sphingosine 1-phosphate (S1P) and its specific receptors, and the development of several diseases, as scientists have discerned that pharmacological intervention (or the genetic ablation of enzymes controlling sphingolipid synthesis or degradation) and S1P signalling have beneficial effects on these disorders.

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Editor-in-Chief

Prof. Dr. Maurizio Battino
Department of Odontostomatologic and Specialized Clinical Sciences, Sez-Biochimica, Faculty of Medicine, Università Politecnica delle Marche, Via Ranieri 65, 60100 Ancona, Italy

Message from the Editor-in-Chief

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International Journal of Molecular Sciences Editorial Office
MDPI, St. Alban-Anlage 66
4052 Basel, Switzerland

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