



Molecular Insights into Sphingolipids

Guest Editor:

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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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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MDPI, Grosspeteranlage 5
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