



## Amniotic Fluid and Placental Membranes as Sources of Stem Cells: Progress and Challenges

Guest Editors:

**Dr. Tullia Maraldi**

Department of Biomedical,  
Metabolic and Neural Sciences,  
University of Modena and Reggio  
Emilia, 41125 Modena, Italy

**Prof. Dr. Valentina Russo**

Faculty of Bioscience and Agro-  
Food and Environmental  
Technology, Agriculture and  
Environment, University of  
Teramo, Via Renato Balzarini 1,  
64100 Teramo, Italy

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### Message from the Guest Editors

Stem cell research drew the attention toward amniotic membrane and amniotic fluid stem cells, since these sources possess many advantages: first of all cells can be extracted from discarded fetal material, secondly abundant stem cells can be obtained and finally, these stem cell sources are free from ethical considerations and tumorigenicity. Stem cells derived from amniotic fluid and membranes possess embryonic stem cell-like differentiation capability and, similar to mesenchymal stem cells, are also able to modulate the local immune response. Their reduced immunogenicity and immunomodulatory properties allow their use in allo and xeno-transplantation settings. These, and other properties, make these cells attractive for cellular therapy.

This Special Issue on “Amniotic fluid and placental membranes as sources of stem cells: progress and challenges” welcomes original research articles that illustrate and stimulate the growing efforts to understand the implication of stem cells in pathological conditions such as cardiovascular and metabolic diseases, inflammatory, autoimmune, skeletal and degenerative diseases.

Dr. Tullia Maraldi  
Prof. Valentina Russo  
*Guest Editors*





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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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*International Journal of Molecular  
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MDPI, Grosspeteranlage 5  
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