



Key Players in Connective Tissue Diseases: The Immune System and Beyond

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Deadline for manuscript
submissions:

closed (30 June 2023)

Message from the Guest Editor

Connective tissue diseases (CTDs) are a heterogeneous group of pathological conditions characterized by an abnormal autoimmune response, leading to chronic inflammation and potential organ damage, whose clinical manifestations encompass a wide variety of symptoms and several laboratory abnormalities. The pathogenesis of CTDs involves not only the acquired immunity, but also innate immunity, genetic and environmental factors which contribute to determine the onset, the evolution of the signs and symptoms over the time and development of comorbidities which characterize the clinical course of these diseases. The management of CTDs often represents a challenge in clinical practice due to their clinical heterogeneity and the lack of biochemical or genetic biomarkers useful for monitoring and predicting the clinical outcome.

This Special Issue of *IJMS* aims to focus on advances in the physiopathology, diagnosis and treatment of CTDs, particularly focusing on the development of new diagnostic tools, a molecular basis of pathological processes, disease biomarkers and potential new therapeutic strategies.





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Message from the Editor-in-Chief

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