



## Solving the Puzzle: Molecular Research in Inflammatory Bowel Diseases

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Deadline for manuscript  
submissions:

**closed (31 August 2023)**

### Message from the Guest Editor

Inflammatory bowel disease (IBD) is an umbrella term describing chronic idiopathic relapsing and remitting gastrointestinal autoimmune diseases. The main disorders are ulcerative colitis and Crohn's disease.

IBD has proven to be multifactorial as genetic factors in parallel with environmental, infectious, and immunologic factors have been identified. Dysregulation of transcellular and paracellular intestinal barriers as well as activation of mucosal immune responses are involved either by representing a consequence or a trigger of the pathological impairments.

Recent advances in IBD research have allowed the identification of new molecular predictive markers and development of innovative therapeutic concepts. Nevertheless, the etiological background of IBD remains poorly understood, and basic research with translational applications is cogently needed.

This Special Issue aims to gather knowledge of original research and review articles covering functional, ultrastructural, genetic, and molecular research to promote solving the complex puzzle of IBD with the goal on new targets for effective intervention.





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## Message from the Editor-in-Chief

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