



Natural Killer T (NKT) Cells

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Message from the Guest Editor

Dear Colleagues,

This Special Issue, “Natural Killer T (NKT) Cells”, will cover a selection of recent research topics and current review articles in this field. Experimental papers, up-to-date review articles and commentaries are all welcome.

Natural killer T (NKT) cells represent an exceptional lymphocyte population uniting a T cell and natural killer cell-like phenotype with tumor-killing activity. Most NKT cells recognize the antigen-presenting molecule CD1d. NKT cells are classified into type 1 invariant, type 2 diverse and NKT-like cells.

NKT cells have been shown to play an essential role in autoimmune diseases as well as in cancer. NKT cells are present in peripheral blood mononuclear cells or cord blood in low numbers but can be expanded in vitro.

Most clinical trials with NKT cells have been performed with cytokine-induced killer (CIK) cells. CIK cells are licensed, e.g., in Germany.

Due to their easy availability and potent antitumor activity, NKT cells have emerged as a promising immunotherapy approach in oncology and may gain major importance in the prognosis of cancer.

Prof. Dr. Ingo Schmidt-Wolf

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Message from the Editor-in-Chief

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