



The Role of Protease and Protease Inhibitors in Human Diseases

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Message from the Guest Editor

There are approximately 600 proteases and 150 endogenous protease inhibitors in humans that regulate diverse physiological processes such as cellular signaling, DNA replication, cellular proliferation and differentiation, remodeling of the extracellular matrix, angiogenesis, neurogenesis, fertilization, blood coagulation, food digestion, apoptosis, inflammation, etc. Therefore, it is not surprising that the deregulation of their activities governs multiple pathological conditions including cancer, neurodegeneration, skin overdesquamation and inflammation. In addition, recent data has shown that human endogenous proteases regulate certain viral infections.

Thus, proteases are druggable targets and important diagnostic molecules. In the latter context, the development of assays to measure their activity instead of the total amount is expected to increase their diagnostic potential since it is the activity that underlies the (patho)physiological phenotype. This Special Issue will cover a selection of recent research and review articles on the role of proteases and/or their inhibitors in human pathophysiology.





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Message from the Editor-in-Chief

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