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Pathogenesis, Immunity and Therapy of Systemic Sclerosis: Molecular Aspects

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Message from the Guest Editors

Dear Colleagues,

Systemic sclerosis is a connective tissue disease with highly complex pathogenesis which comprises vascular damage, tissue fibrosis and autoimmune phenomena. Due to this complex pathomechanism, there is still an unmet need for efficient disease-modifying treatments in this disease which can affect almost all organ systems and carries the worst disease-related survival among the systemic autoimmune diseases. Ischemia–reperfusion injury, vascular dysfunction and abnormal angiogenesis represent key pathological aspects of vascular damage. Fibrosis in multiple organs is a prominent pathological finding, and is also the most characteristic and disabling clinical feature in systemic sclerosis. Dysregulation of the immune system leads to the breakage of tolerance and the activation of autoreactive T and B lymphocytes, resulting in pathological autoantibody production, inflammation and multi-organ damage. This Special Issue aims to highlight recent advances in the cellular and molecular aspects of vascular damage, fibrosis and immune dysfunction.

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Message from the Editor-in-Chief

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