



## Molecular Links between Periodontitis and Systemic Diseases

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### Message from the Guest Editor

Periodontitis is one of the most prevalent diseases globally. It is a polymicrobial infection and multifactorial disease characterized by chronic inflammation in the periodontium. If left untreated, this condition leads to alveolar bone destruction and subsequently induces tooth loss, during which major periodontopathic bacteria, are known to be involved in the induction of proinflammatory cytokine production. Recently, periodontopathic bacteria have been involved in respiratory diseases, including aspiration pneumonia and chronic obstructive pulmonary disease, and other systemic diseases, such as diabetes and cardiovascular disease. Conversely, oral care, including periodontal treatment, prevents the onset of pneumonia and the exacerbation of COPD and diabetes. However, how periodontopathic bacteria contribute to those systemic diseases remains unclear. To that end, it is crucial to explain how periodontopathic bacteria adversely affect systemic diseases at the molecular level, we would like to provide important aspects of the molecular events by periodontopathic bacteria, focusing on periodontitis and related systemic diseases.





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