Journal of
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Immunocyto/Histochemistry in the Era of Immunotherapy

Guest Editors:

Dr. Ilaria Grazia Zizzari
Department of Experimental Medicine, "Sapienza" University of Rome, Viale Regina Elena, 324-00161 Rome, Italy

Dr. Ilary Ruscito
Department of Medical and Surgical Sciences and Translational Medicine, Sapienza University of Rome, 324-00161 Rome, Italy

Prof. Dr. A. Rughetti
Department of Experimental Medicine, "Sapienza" University of Rome, Viale Regina Elena, 324-00161 Rome, Italy

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Message from the Guest Editors

Immunotherapy in oncology is a breakthrough in the treatment of cancer. Treatment of cancer with immune checkpoint inhibitors (ICI) capable of unleashing T cells to exponentially expand and kill transformed cells, is the most recent and appealing treatment strategy being developed in the last decade. ICIs have been improving the survival of cancer patients. Nevertheless, not all patients respond and some of them show severe autoimmune toxicities and only 20–30% of treated patients present long term benefits. It is compelling to validate predictive and prognostic biomarkers to identify patients who are most likely to benefit from immunotherapy upfront and those who need to integrate/combine the immune-treatment with other strategies that can synergize the otherwise useless immunotherapy treatment. While some predictive factors of response to ICIs have been proposed, including PD-L1 expression, high tumor mutational burden, and mismatch repair gene defects, reliable biomarkers for the resistance to treatment are still lacking. This is in part due to the complexity of the tumor immune microenvironment and its impact on the immune drug efficacy.

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Editor-in-Chief

Prof. Dr. David Alan Rizzieri
1. Novant Health Cancer Institute, Winston-Salem, NC 27103, USA
2. Division of Hematologic Malignancies and Cellular Therapy, Duke University, Durham, NC 27710, USA

Message from the Editor-in-Chief

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Journal of Personalized Medicine
Editorial Office
MDPI, Grosspeteranlage 5
4052 Basel, Switzerland

Tel: +41 61 683 77 34
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