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## Biology of Cartilage Cells and Cell Signaling with Emphasis on Osteoarthritis and Its Risk Factors

Guest Editors:

**Dr. Bibiane Steinecker-Frohnwieser**

Ludwig Boltzmann Institute for Arthritis and Rehabilitation, Ludwig Boltzmann Society, Thorerstrasse 26, 5760 Saalfelden, Austria

**Dr. Birgit Lohberger**

Department of Orthopedics and Trauma, Medical University of Graz, Auenbruggerplatz 5, 8036 Graz, Austria

Deadline for manuscript submissions:

**closed (30 April 2023)**

### Message from the Guest Editors

Chondrocytes are the only cells in articular cartilage and are largely responsible for maintaining a healthy structure of the extracellular cartilage matrix. In doing so, they ensure a balance between cartilage-building and cartilage-degrading processes. The destruction of cartilage as occurs in the development of osteoarthritis (OA) is due to a disturbed balance between those processes that maintain cartilage. Based on the characterization of various risk factors leading to OA, mechanisms in this context that ultimately influence the physiology of chondrocytes are not yet clearly, or only schematically, mapped in detail. A more precise elucidation, in particular, of the interplay of extracellular signaling processes associated with OA risk factors, their transformation into intracellular signaling processes, and their misregulation in OA chondrocytes compared with healthy cartilage may lead to a better understanding of the onset of disease.

Insights into which of the signal transduction cascades may be out of control in OA chondrocytes compared with healthy cells and subsequent systematic characterization could lead to the evaluation of new pharmacological targets in OA therapy.



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**Special** Issue



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### **Prof. Dr. Lluís Ribas de Pouplana**

Institute for Research in Biomedicine (IRB Barcelona), The Barcelona Institute of Science and Technology, 08028 Barcelona, Spain

## Message from the Editor-in-Chief

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*Life* Editorial Office  
MDPI, St. Alban-Anlage 66  
4052 Basel, Switzerland

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