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Function and Dysfunction of Phase Separations and Transitions Driven by Intrinsically Disordered Protein Regions

Guest Editors:

Dr. Sonia Longhi

Architecture and Function of Biological Macromolecules (AFMB), UMR 7257 CNRS & Aix-Marseille University, 13288 Marseille, France

Prof. Dr. Stefano Gianni

Department of Biochemical Sciences, Sapienza University of Rome, 00185 Rome, Italy

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Message from the Guest Editors

In the last decade, it has become increasingly evident that intrinsically disordered protein regions (IDPRs), either alone or in the presence of nucleic acids, have the ability to undergo liquid–liquid phase separation (LLPS), a process also known as de-mixing and leading to the formation of a condensed phase surrounded by, and dynamically interchanging with, a dispersed phase. LLPS, which has been found to occur in the cell cytoplasm, in the nucleoplasm, as well as in vitro for many purified proteins, has attracted much interest, as it drives the formation of membrane-less organelles (MLOs) (e.g., Cajal bodies, processing bodies, nucleolus, stress granules, centrosomes and aggresomes), whose function is essential for the cell and whose dysfunction is associated with various pathologies, including age-related disorders.

The aim of this Special Issue is to contribute to the development of the field and fuel additional studies aimed at gathering information on proteins undergoing LLPS in a structured and knowledgeable manner, while providing a wide range of information on the biophysical driving forces, the biological function and the regulation of these systems.



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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, Grosspeteranlage 5
4052 Basel, Switzerland

Tel: +41 61 683 77 34
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