

Special Issue

Musculoskeletal Medicine in Rheumatic Diseases

Message from the Guest Editors

Rheumatic diseases, including rheumatoid arthritis, axial and peripheral spondylarthritis, as well as crystal-related arthritis, are systemic inflammatory conditions that primarily affect the musculoskeletal system. These diseases cause chronic, often irreversible damage, leading to significant functional deficits and a reduced quality of life. Recent advances in diagnostics, including early identification of immunological changes and modern imaging methods, such as musculoskeletal ultrasonography or magnetic resonance imaging, have revolutionized the management of these conditions. Over the past five decades, treatment goals have shifted from symptom relief to achieving and maintaining remission, stopping radiographic progression and striving for drug-free remission. New therapeutic agents, such as targeted synthetic disease-modifying antirheumatic drugs (tDMARDs) and biologics, are crucial in this evolution. Early diagnosis and identifying "hard-to-treat" cases, allowing for tailored treatment strategies. This Issue provides comprehensive insights into the latest research, diagnostics and therapies in musculoskeletal medicine for rheumatic diseases.

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