



Telomeres and Telomerase

Guest Editor:

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Deadline for manuscript
submissions:

closed (31 January 2021)

Message from the Guest Editor

The importance of telomeres and telomerase has been acknowledged since Elizabeth Blackburn, Carol Greider, and Jack Szostak won the Nobel prize in physiology in 2009. Telomeres, the end parts of linear chromosomes, together with their cognate proteins, mask the ends of chromosomes from being identified as double strand breaks that otherwise would be repaired by DNA repair mechanisms, thus conferring genomic stability. In addition, they serve as mitotic clocks, as they are getting gradually shorter with each cell division, until they reach a critical length. When this process is perturbed, the cells continue to divide, and telomeres become dysfunctional, allowing the accumulation of mutations, some of which may be cancerous. If some of these cells upregulate telomerase, telomeres will not be further shortened, and the cancer clone will be perpetuated. Telomerase is considered the hallmark of cancer, since it is specific mainly for cancer cells and is vital for their endless replicative potential.

In this Special Issue, we welcome original studies and review articles presenting novel findings at the basic and translational levels of research in this field.





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Message from the Editor-in-Chief

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