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## Molecular Imaging of the Tumor Microenvironment

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### Message from the Guest Editor

With the progress in research, we all acknowledge that treating cancer involves focusing on cancer cells and understanding their interactions with the surrounding cells and extracellular matrix, which compose the tumor microenvironments (TME). Immunotherapies have recently shown promising results in various types of cancers, and the concept of the tumor microenvironment has expanded to include immune-related components such as immune cells and cytokines. Consequently, a new field of research called the tumor immune microenvironment (TIME) has been proposed and actively explored.

Traditionally, many animals have to be used to study specific events occurring in the TME/TIME because they need to be sacrificed to conduct different experiments. However, with the emergence and utilization of molecular imaging in biomedical research, disease progression and interactions between multiple cell types or overall tumor microenvironmental changes can be tracked employing various imaging instruments noninvasively at multiple time points using the same cohort of animals.

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