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Advances in HDAC Inhibitors

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Message from the Guest Editors

It has been more than 32 years since the first histone deacetylase inhibitor, the natural product trichostatin A, was described. Despite the advances in drug design that allow selectively targeting the distinct isoforms, only a few drugs have been approved by regulatory agencies worldwide. In humans, histone deacetylase (HDAC) enzymes are comprised of 18 enzymes divided into two mains families: zinc-dependent metalloenzymes (HDAC1-11) and those dependent on NAD+ as a co-factor, known as sirtuins (1-7). Currently, medicinal chemistry approaches aiming to identify synthetic and natural-based HDAC inhibitors have been described in the literature. Although commonly focused on cancer, other indications such as epilepsy, diabetes, pain, neurodegenerative disorders, infectious diseases, rare diseases (e.g., sickle cell disease, Duchenne and Becker muscular dystrophy), etc., have gained attention not only for monotherapy but also for combined therapy. In this Special Issue, we will highlight the recent advances and progress made in the development of HDAC inhibitors from the perspective of medicinal chemistry. Clinical studies describing the advances in HDAC inhibitors are also welcome.

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