



## Small Molecules in Cancer Immunotherapy

Guest Editors:

**Prof. Dr. Daniela Catarzi**

**Prof. Dr. Vittoria Colotta**

**Dr. Flavia Varano**

Deadline for manuscript  
submissions:

**closed (25 June 2024)**

### Message from the Guest Editors

Hypoxia exerts the up-regulation of both CD73 and CD39 expression, the two enzymes that are involved in the generation of adenosine from ATP/ADP, and of adenosine receptors (ARs). The low oxygen tension in the tumor microenvironment leads to an increase in the adenosine levels that activate ARs in immune or cancer cells. The activation of the different ARs may have opposing effects in modulating cell cycle or immunity, depending on different factors. Thus, targeting the adenosinergic axis, including its generating enzymes and receptors, may represent a key strategy for cancer therapy. Moreover, since the proper role of every component of the adenosine pathway has yet to be fully understood, the discovery of small molecules as new pharmacological tools is needed.

Authors are invited to submit original articles presenting their research in this area of investigation. The proposed topics include, but are not limited to, new AR ligands and CD39 and CD73 inhibitors, designed as chemical probes for the study of the pharmacological role of adenosine in cancer. Review articles summarizing current knowledge on these topics are also of interest.





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## Message from the Editor-in-Chief

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