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## Insulin-Like Growth Factor-1 (IGF-1) Receptor as Drug Targets

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### **Message from the Guest Editors**

Insulin-like growth factor 1 (IGF-1) plays an important role in human development, growth, and aging. IGF-1 exerts its effects through specific receptors located on cell membranes, i.e., IGF-R (insulin-like growth factor-1 and 2 receptors). Through these receptors, IGF-1 induces cell growth, affects cell survival by preventing apoptosis, and stimulates cell differentiation. Abnormal IGF signaling may lead to changes in systemic homeostasis, including cognitive dysfunction, development of neurodegenerative diseases, and most importantly, malignant transformation and tumor progression. In tumorigenesis, IGF-1 and its receptor are constitutively overexpressed. Increasing evidence suggests that the IGF axis not only promotes oncogenesis but also confers resistance to standard treatment. Given the high mortality rate of cancer patients, novel therapeutic targets are urgently needed. Hence, regulation of IGF-1/IGF-1R axis signaling appears to be a promising strategy leading to the disruption of cancer cell growth and survival.



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