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Exosomes as Drug Carriers

Guest Editors:

Dr. Lucio Barile

Euler Institute, Faculty of
Biomedical Sciences, Università
della Svizzera Italiana, CH-6900
Lugano, Switzerland

Prof. Dr. Sveva Bollini

Regenerative Medicine
Laboratory, Department of
Experimental Medicine,
University of Genova, 16132
Genova, Italy

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Message from the Guest Editors

The discovery of exosomes (Exo) as natural carriers of functional small RNA and proteins has raised great interest in the drug delivery field. Exo deliver their surface proteins and luminal content to the recipient cells, thus it may be possible to exploit these vesicles for therapeutic delivery of RNAs and peptides. Synthetic drugs can also be encapsulated into Exo as they have a hydrophilic core, which makes them suitable to host water-soluble drugs. Targeted Exo can be obtained by displaying targeting molecules, such as peptides or antibody fragments recognizing target antigens, on the outer surface of Exo. Moreover, the fact that Exo are a natural product of the body, results in a low immune response. Finally, they show reduced long-term accumulation in organs or tissues, with relatively low systemic toxicity. This Research Topic is aimed: 1) at defining Exo loading strategies 2) at analyzing advantages of Exo-based drug delivery in terms of biocompatibility 3) at investigating the impact of Exo-based approaches vs. conventional drugs.



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Editor-in-Chief

Prof. Dr. Patrick J. Sinko

Ernest Mario School of
Pharmacy, Rutgers, The State
University of New Jersey, William
Levine Hall, Room 225C, 160
Frelinghuysen Road, Piscataway,
NJ 08854-8020, USA

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Pharmaceutics Editorial Office
MDPI, Grosspeteranlage 5
4052 Basel, Switzerland

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