Special Issue

Editorial Board Members' Collection Series: Progress and Challenges of Gene Delivery Systems

Message from the Guest Editors

In the last few decades, nucleic acid-based therapy has achieved rapid development leading to the approval of some gene therapeutics. However, the instability, short half-life, and membrane impermeability severely hinder the efficient delivery of gene drugs. Development of safe and efficient delivery systems remains the key issue to advance gene therapy. Viral vectors and non-viral vectors, the two main delivery systems at present, have their own advantages and disadvantages. Nanomaterial-based non-viral vectors, including polymers, dendrimers, liposomes, lipid nanoparticles, peptides, and inorganic nanoparticles, have the advantages of safety, non-immunogenicity, and ease of massive production and have been extensively explored for gene therapy. To promote their clinical translation, researchers have tried various strategies to improve delivery efficiency and reduce off-target effects. This issue focuses on the latest progress of nucleic acid delivery systems and highlights the challenges for their translation into clinic, aiming to present a fundamental understanding of this field.

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