



Purinergic Receptors and Ectonucleotidases as Novel Therapeutic Targets

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Deadline for manuscript submissions:

closed (22 May 2024)

Message from the Guest Editors

Fifty years ago, the visionary scientist Geoffrey Burnstock proposed the purinergic signaling theory. Although this idea had strong opposition in the beginning, purinergic signaling is now a widespread and accepted phenomenon, with several actors including G-coupled receptors (P2Y, adenosine receptors), ligand-gated ion channels (P2X receptors), ectonucleotidases that metabolize extracellular nucleotides, and proteins that are important for ATP release to the extracellular space. Purinergic signaling is involved in health and disease, participating in processes such as synaptic transmission, cardiovascular system regulation, regulation of immune-cell function, bone growth and exocrine and endocrine secretion, among others. Likewise, several pathological states are related to purinergic signaling, including cancer, as well as cardiovascular, respiratory, immune and cognitive diseases. In this Special Issue we will focus on the potential role of purinergic signaling, including receptors, nucleosidases and transport proteins, as a potential therapeutic target for these diseases.





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