Special Issue

Understanding the Molecular Diversity of Astrocytes

Message from the Guest Editor

All physiological and pathological processes in the brain are supported or assisted by astrocytes. Recent evidence indicates that astrocytes in different parts of the brain have different genetic fingerprints. But how many genuine sub-types which can be reliably distinguished functionally and anatomically are actually present? Our current knowledge of astrocytic transcriptomes comes from studies which have used very different methods and this is an important factor. Each of the experimental approaches and specific paradigms used to challenge astrocytes has consequences to what we see at transcriptional level and it is important to keep these differences in mind when trying to make sense of the plethora of published transcriptomic data. We invite the leading laboratories to discuss their findings in one volume where we focus readers attention on the key questions: how much our "vision" of astrocytes depends on the experimental conditions and what are the take home messages of the transcriptomic data available so far.

Guest Editor

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Deadline for manuscript submissions

closed (18 October 2019)

Brain Sciences

an Open Access Journal by MDPI

Impact Factor 2.7
CiteScore 4.8
Indexed in PubMed

mdpi.com/si/27391

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