Special Issue

Lysosomal Proteases and Their Inhibitors

Message from the Guest Editors

The discovery of the lysosome, a major cytoplasmic organelle, represents a significant breakthrough in the understanding of intracellular protein degradation processes—proteolysis. Lysosomes contain over fifty hydrolases. Among them, proteases, especially cathepsins, are involved in a broad spectrum of biological functions. Cathepsins are separated into three different catalytic types: serine proteases (cathepsins A and G), aspartic proteases (cathepsin D and E), and cysteine proteases (cathepsins B, C, F, H, K, L, O, S, V, X/Z and W). They are involved in many physiological and pathological processes. This special issue will cover recent advances toward a better understanding of proteolysis and its control mechanisms: structural aspects, bioinformatic analysis of human and other genomes, proteomics, and recently developed advanced methods such as drug targeting, selective labeling, and visualization. These and other approaches will contribute to a further understanding of cancer, cardiovascular diseases, neurodegeneration, and other diseases.

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The International Journal of Molecular Sciences (*IJMS*, ISSN 1422-0067) is an open access journal, which was established in 2000. The journal aims to provide a forum for scholarly research on a range of topics, including biochemistry, molecular and cell biology, molecular biophysics, molecular medicine, and all aspects of molecular research in chemistry. *IJMS* publishes both original research and review articles, and regularly publishes special issues to highlight advances at the cutting edge of research. We invite you to read recent articles published in *IJMS* and consider publishing your next paper with us.

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