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Lipid Biomarkers in Alzheimer's Disease

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Message from the Guest Editor

Dear Colleagues,

The number of patients with dementia is increasing as the population ages in many countries. Dementia can be subdivided into several categories and Alzheimer's disease (AD) accounts for about 70% of dementia patients. Although AD research is being conducted vigorously all over the world, the pathogenesis of AD is still largely unknown, and the lack of a fundamental cure or appropriate early diagnosis places AD among the diseases with the highest unmet needs. Apolipoprotein E4 (APOE4) is known to be a strong risk factor for the development of AD. APOE is a member of the family of lipid-binding proteins, which are involved in lipid metabolism and a major transporter of cholesterol in the brain. A number of studies have also shown that polyunsaturated fatty acid (PUFA) intake reduces the risk of Alzheimer's disease. Aspirin, which inhibits cyclooxygenase, an enzyme involved in the metabolism of arachidonic acid has long been claimed to be effective in preventing AD. It is also said that the effect of aspirin on AD is mediated by proliferator-activated receptor alpha (PPAR alpha), a receptor activated by free fatty acids. Furthermore, amyloid protein has been the main focus of AD research, and its precursor, Amyloid Precursor Protein (APP), is a membrane protein. Lipids are the major components of membranes. Thus, there is a high possibility that lipids are related to AD. Therefore, we have planned a special issue on Lipid Biomarkers in Alzheimer's disease.

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Message from the Editor-in-Chief

The metabolome is the result of the combined effects of genetic and environmental influences on metabolic processes. Metabolomic studies can provide a global view of metabolism and thereby improve our understanding of the underlying biology. Advances in metabolomic technologies have shown utility for elucidating mechanisms which underlie fundamental biological processes including disease pathology. *Metabolites* is proud to be part of the development of metabolomics and we look forward to working with many of you to publish high quality metabolomic studies.

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