



## Circulating Tumor Cells (CTCs): Current and Emerging Utility in Cancer

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### Message from the Guest Editors

Dear Colleagues,

CTCs are a rare population of cells shed in the bloodstream by primary epithelial tumors that move towards distant organs to generate metastasis. In a translational context, CTC enumeration, detection and characterization (at both phenotypic and molecular levels) were proven to have a clinical significance, especially in early epithelial cancer detection and prognosis prediction. Given their availability in the peripheral blood, CTC analysis allows also for therapy response and minimal residual disease (MRD) monitoring. However, the discovery of new CTC markers in different cancer types is a critical step in developing new methods for CTC detection and improving recovery. Furthermore, thanks to CTCs in vitro culturing it is possible to increase their numbers, simplifying the analysis of their biological and molecular features and allowing for a deeper comprehension of the nature of tumors.

Topics of this Special Issue can include but are not limited to:

- CTC biology;
- Tumor progression;
- Minimal residual disease (MRD);
- Therapy response monitoring;
- Metastatic organotropism;
- New methods for CTC detection and characterization;
- CTC-derived in vitro models.





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## Message from the Editor-in-Chief

*Cancers* is an international online journal addressing both clinical and basic science issues related to cancer research. The journal is publishing in Open Access format, which will certainly evolve to ensure that the journal takes full advantage of the rapidly changing world of information and knowledge dissemination. It publishes high-quality clinical, translational, and basic science research on cancer prevention, initiation, progression, and treatment, as well as other related topics, particularly to capture the most seminal studies in the rapidly growing area of immunology, immunotherapy, and tumor microenvironment.

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