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Drug Resistance in Cancers

Guest Editor:

Prof. Dr. Zhixiang Wang

Signal Transduction Research Group, Department of Medical Genetics, Faculty of Medicine and Dentistry, University of Alberta, Edmonton, AB T6G 2H7, Canada

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Message from the Guest Editor

Dear Colleagues,

Cancer is among the leading causes of mortality in Canada. Despite advances in treatment in all settings, disease recurrence and progression remains a major obstacle to therapy. One of the main clinical issues is the development of drug resistance. Drug resistance exists in two forms: Acquired resistance, where the drug is initially efficient but becomes ineffective over time, while intrinsic resistance occurs when a drug is ineffective from the beginning of treatment. The hallmarks of drug resistance in cancers include sustained tumor cell proliferation, insensitive to growth suppressors, resisting cell death, and active invasion. The most established in vitro mechanism for resistance to more than one chemically unrelated class of agents (multidrug resistance) is the overexpression of drug efflux proteins, such as ATP-binding cassette. Resistances may also arise that are specific to one group of drugs. Understanding the mechanisms underlying drug resistance and the development of novel therapies are key to overcoming drug resistance.

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Editor-in-Chief

Prof. Dr. Samuel C. Mok

Department of Gynecologic Oncology and Reproductive Medicine, The University of Texas MD Anderson Cancer Center, Houston, TX 77030, USA

Message from the Editor-in-Chief

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Cancers Editorial Office MDPI, St. Alban-Anlage 66 4052 Basel, Switzerland Tel: +41 61 683 77 34 www.mdpi.com mdpi.com/journal/cancers cancers@mdpi.com X@Cancers_MDPI