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Tumor Vasculature – Biological Insights and Therapeutic Opportunities

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Message from the Guest Editors

A basic requirement of tumorigenesis is the development of a vascular network to support the metabolic requirements of the tumor and to facilitate growth and metastasis. Tumor vascular formation is regulated by a balance between promoters and inhibitors of angiogenesis. Typically, the pro-angiogenic environment created by the tumor is extremely aggressive, resulting in the rapid formation of vessels with an abnormal, dysfunctional morphology. The altered morphology and function of tumor blood and lymphatic vessels has numerous implications, including poor perfusion, tissue hypoxia, and reduced therapy uptake. Targeting tumor angiogenesis as a therapeutic approach has been pursued in a host of different cancers. Although some preclinical success was achieved, there has been a general lack of clinical success with traditional anti-angiogenic therapeutics as single agents. A more comprehensive understanding of the biology of tumor angiogenesis and insights into new clinical approaches, including combinations with immunotherapy, are needed to advance vascular targeting as a therapeutic area.



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Special Issue



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Message from the Editor-in-Chief

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