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Autophagy in Age-Related Human Diseases

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Message from the Guest Editor

Dear Colleagues,

Increasingly, the process of autophagy (“self-eating”) is attracting tremendous research efforts. Exciting new data are shedding light on the molecular details of the process of autophagy and its perturbation in human diseases. Moreover, it is becoming evident that autophagy activity and capacity decrease during the aging process, giving rise to the onset of a great variety of age-related diseases. Strikingly, autophagy is also essential to the development of certain diseases (e.g. tumor progression). Hence, the modulation of autophagy is regarded as a new therapeutic opportunity for the future treatment of many pathological conditions. Further, targeting autophagy during the aging process may in fact prove to effectively prevent the onset of age-related human diseases. However, specific autophagy modulators have not yet been developed and tested.

This special issue aims to summarize the current knowledge on the role of autophagy in the process of aging and in age-related human diseases such as neurodegeneration and cancer. We look forward to your contributions.

Prof. Dr. Tassula Proikas-Ce



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