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The Role of Mediator Kinase in Cancer

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Deadline for manuscript
submissions:

closed (30 November 2019)

Message from the Guest Editor

Dear Colleagues,

CDK8 and its paralog, CDK19, collectively termed ‘Mediator Kinase’, are cyclin-dependent kinases that have been implicated as key rheostats in cellular homeostasis and developmental programming. Mediator facilitates gene expression by bridging promoters with transcription factors bound to cell lineage and cancer- specific enhancers. As such, there is immense interest in developing therapeutic agents that can disrupt Mediator function in a context dependent manner. Recent studies have shown that pharmacological targeting of CDK8/19 is an attractive strategy for different cancers. Nevertheless, major questions remain regarding the safety of Mediator kinase targeted therapies. This special issue will address both therapeutic opportunities and challenges of drugging the Mediator kinases.

Keywords

- Chromatin
- Transcription
- Cancer genetics
- Oncogene
- Signalling
- Mediator
- Drug development



mdpi.com/si/24303

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