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Disorders of Mitochondrial Metabolism

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Message from the Guest Editor

Disorders of mitochondrial metabolism are a phenotypically and genetically diverse group of diseases which can affected any organ or tissue of the body, although organs with high energy demands such as the brain and muscle tissue are generally most susceptible. One of the major causes of impaired mitochondrial metabolism are mitochondrial respiratory chain (MRC) disorders which have an estimated incidence of 1 in 5000. MRC dysfunction can present at any age and result from mutations in either mitochondrial or nuclear DNA and therefore both matrilineal and Mendelian inheritance patterns are exhibited by families with these conditions. In addition to primary genetic causes, MRC dysfunction may also result from the secondary consequence of disease pathophysiology as well as from `off target` drug toxicity.

The purpose of this Special Issue will be to present a selection of studies and reviews that outline the causes and consequences of primary and secondary MRC dysfunction, including putative mechanisms of mitochondrial impairment, appropriate diagnostic biomarkers of disease pathophysiology and candidate therapies.

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Message from the Editor-in-Chief

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