

Special Issue on Biotechnological Drugs: The Breakthrough in Autoimmune Rheumatic Conditions

Call for Papers

Biotechnological drugs are a wide group of therapeutic agents obtained by means of genetic engineering methodologies. They act through the inhibition of specific cytokines/cells involved in the cascade of different pathological processes, leading to the modification of host immune response. The main targets of these drugs are TNF-alpha, IL-6, IL-1, and B and T cells. In the latest years, according to the improved knowledge in the pathogenesis of several diseases, the use of these drugs is steadily increasing, and new agents have been marketed or are under development.

Autoimmune rheumatic diseases are the prototypical example of pathological conditions that may benefit from these therapies. Biotechnological drugs deeply improved the prognosis and quality of life of patients affected by rheumatoid arthritis, psoriatic arthritis, and ankylosing spondylitis; moreover positive effects have been described also in connective tissue diseases and gout. Despite the large number of papers published and the large clinical experience obtained for some of these drugs, there are still many questions on this topic that should be clarified.

This issue will focus on original manuscripts evaluating the unmet needs of marketed biotechnological drugs in autoimmune rheumatic conditions. Reviews will be limited to peculiar diseases/clinical aspects that may really help clinicians in the daily practice. Papers focusing on drugs under development or experimentation are encouraged. Potential topics include, but are not limited to:

- Rheumatoid arthritis
- Psoriatic arthritis
- Ankylosing spondylitis
- Systemic lupus erythematosus
- Idiopathic inflammatory myopathies
- Gout

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complete manuscript through the journal Manuscript Tracking System at <http://mts.hindawi.com/submit/journals/bmri/immunology/bd/> according to the following timetable:

Manuscript Due	Friday, 17 January 2014
First Round of Reviews	Friday, 11 April 2014
Publication Date	Friday, 6 June 2014

Lead Guest Editor

Lorenzo Cavagna, Division of Rheumatology, University and IRCCS Policlinico S. Matteo Foundation, viale Golgi 2, 27100 Pavia, Italy; lorenzo.cavagna@unipv.it

Guest Editors

Lesley-Ann Saketkoo, Sections of Rheumatology and Pulmonary Medicine, Department of Medicine, Louisiana State University Health Sciences Center, 1542 Tulane Avenue, New Orleans, LA, USA; ctd.ild@gmail.com

Andreas Schwarting, Division of Rheumatology, University Hospital Mainz and ACURA Rheumatology Center Rhineland-Palatinate, Kaiser-Wilhelm Street 9-11, 55543 Bad Kreuznach, Germany; schwarting@uni-mainz.de

Roberto Caporali, Division of Rheumatology, University and IRCCS Policlinico S. Matteo Foundation, viale Golgi 2, 27100 Pavia, Italy; roberto.caporali@smatteo.pv.it