

Special Issue on  
**Ocular Surface Neovascularization Innervation and Immunology**

# CALL FOR PAPERS

Being avascular, the cornea is almost completely transparent, which is a unique characteristic and a mandatory requirement for a clear vision. Diseases associated with corneal neovascularization include inflammatory disorders, corneal graft rejection, infectious keratitis, contact lens-related hypoxia, alkali burns, stromal ulceration, aniridia, and limbal stem cell deficiency. Neovascularization may invade the cornea at deeper levels depending on the nature and location of the inflammatory stimulus. The normally avascular cornea may vascularize in situations in which a disequilibrium between angiogenic and antiangiogenic stimuli leads to a surplus of proangiogenic factors.

The cornea is also unique in being the most densely innervated tissue of the body; in fact, nutrients and trophic factors are provided to this avascular tissue not only by tears and the aqueous humor, but also by corneal nerves. Corneal sensory nerves originate from the ophthalmic branch of the fifth cranial nerve and provide sensitivity to mechanical, chemical, and thermal stimuli. They also release neuromediators that provide trophic support to corneal cells.

We invite investigators to improve the knowledge in the innervation and immunology of the cornea, their interrelationships, and their role in neovascularization and its treatment.

Potential topics include but are not limited to the following:

- ▶ Current treatments for corneal neovascularization using corticosteroid and nonsteroid anti-inflammatory medications, photodynamic therapy, laser photocoagulation, fine needle diathermy, and conjunctival, limbal, and amniotic membrane transplantation
- ▶ Diseases: meibomian gland dysfunction, dry eye disease, graft versus host disease, limbal stem cell deficiency, corneal degenerations, corneal dystrophies, infectious keratitis, and disorders related to contact lenses and corneal refractive surgery
- ▶ Morphology in ocular surface using in vivo confocal microscopy

Authors can submit their manuscripts through the Manuscript Tracking System at <http://mts.hindawi.com/submit/journals/bmri/ophthalmology/osn/>.

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