

Special Issue on Biomarkers in Pancreatic Diseases

CALL FOR PAPERS

Despite decades of efforts, the evaluation of the diseases of the pancreas (including acute, chronic, and hereditary pancreatitis, cystic fibrosis, and pancreatic cancer) still is a challenge due to the inaccessibility of this organ. There are multiple methods to evaluate the pancreas, but, to date, there is no known biomarker to confirm the presence of any pancreatic disease or even help in monitoring treatment success.

Pancreatic cancer remains a lethal disease due to its rapid progression and early metastasis, with a life expectancy of less than 6 months and a 5-year survival rate of around 5%. The key symptoms associated with pancreatic cancer are usually unremarkable until the cancer has progressed to an advanced stage, and 80% of patients present with locally advanced or metastatic disease at their diagnosis. Hence, the lack of robust, accurate, and noninvasive methods to detect early stages of PC represents the most important obstacle to the improvement of outcomes.

Pancreatitis is an inflammatory disease characterized by morphological changes of the pancreatic gland, fibrosis, and impairment of both exocrine and endocrine functions. Diagnosis of pancreatitis, mainly based on the presence of morphological or functional changes, is difficult because no standard diagnostic criteria or method of diagnosing this pathology has been established. Besides, it is essential to identify pancreatitis before advanced phases of the disease and the appearance of typical complications associated (diabetes mellitus, stenosis, pancreatic cancer, etc.), when the function of pancreas is difficult to be significantly restored. Therefore, early diagnosis is the best way to improve the clinical outcome of these patients.

The present issue aims to publish studies of new potential molecular markers that could, in the future, serve as diagnostic or prognostic tool in the battle against pancreatic diseases. High-quality original research and review papers are also welcome.

Potential topics include but are not limited to the following:

- ▶ Early detection of pancreatic cancer
 - ▶ Prognostic and predictive markers in pancreatic diseases
 - ▶ Disease biomarkers in pancreatic malignancies
 - ▶ Use of markers for the detection and treatment of chronic pancreatitis
 - ▶ Peripheral blood biomarkers in pancreatic diseases
 - ▶ Clinical studies in progress
 - ▶ Metabolomics as a tool for biomarker discovery

Authors can submit their manuscripts through the Manuscript Tracking System at <https://mts.hindawi.com/submit/journals/dm/bpan/>.

Papers are published upon acceptance, regardless of the Special Issue publication date.

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