



Special Issue on Innate and Adaptive Immune Response in Autoimmune Rheumatic Disease and Atherosclerosis

CALL FOR PAPERS

Autoimmune rheumatic diseases (AIRDs) are a group of conditions sharing a high risk of cardiovascular morbidity and mortality. In the past years, atherosclerosis has emerged as an inflammatory, immune-mediated disease leading to premature vascular damage. Ever growing evidence supports an independent role for both humoral and cellular immune response, together with the involvement of innate immunity, in the development of the atherosclerotic plaque. The same mechanisms are differently involved in the pathogenesis of various AIRDs. It is not surprising to find premature, accelerated atherosclerosis, not fully explained by an excess of traditional cardiovascular risk factors (i.e., hypertension, dyslipidemia, diabetes, metabolic syndrome, and smoking) in patients with AIRDs; rather, traditional and disease-related factors seem to interplay and converge into a proinflammatory and proatherogenic phenotype. Moreover, autoimmune atherosclerosis is associated with a “high-grade inflammation” whereas primary atherosclerosis seems to be partially sustained by a “low-grade inflammation”.

The main aim of this special issue is to provide evidence and extend the knowledge on the complex relationship between traditional risk factors and immune response in primary and AIRDs-associated atherosclerosis.

We invite authors to contribute to this special issue with original research and review articles focusing on the contribution of innate and adaptive immune response in the development of atherosclerosis in AIRDs.

Potential topics include, but are not limited to:

- ▶ Role of T cell subpopulations in atherosclerosis and AIRDs
- ▶ Autoantigens and autoantibodies in primary and autoimmune atherosclerosis
- ▶ Effectors of innate immune response in atherosclerosis and AIRDs
- ▶ Cytokines and chemokines in atherosclerosis and AIRDs
- ▶ Cellular and molecular biomarkers of premature atherosclerosis in AIRDs
- ▶ Lipid metabolism in AIRDs
- ▶ Metabolic syndrome in AIRDs
- ▶ Assessment of atherosclerosis in patients with AIRDs
- ▶ Effect of treatment of AIRDs on biomarkers of atherosclerosis

Authors can submit their manuscripts via the Manuscript Tracking System at <http://mts.hindawi.com/submit/journals/mi/irrd/>.

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