



Stem Cells International

Special Issue on
**The Bone Marrow Microenvironment in
Hematologic Disorders and Other Systemic Diseases**

CALL FOR PAPERS

It has been long known that mesenchymal stem cells, also known as bone marrow stromal cells, play a critical role in establishing and maintaining the hematopoietic milieu. MSCs can differentiate into the main cell types found in or adjacent to the bone marrow: adipocytes, osteoblasts, and chondroblasts and produce important extracellular matrix components as well as growth factors, cytokines, and small molecules that promote hematopoiesis. Interestingly, MSCs may participate not only in the homeostasis of healthy bone marrow, but also in various pathologic processes. There is a growing body of literature describing important differences between healthy MSCs and those derived from patients with hematologic malignancies. Moreover, there are interesting studies demonstrating that MSCs are often abnormal in nonhematopoietic diseases, like psoriasis as well.

We invite investigators to contribute original research articles that will help understand how MSCs are different in various hematologic diseases and what role these differences play in various pathologic processes.

Potential topics include, but are not limited to:

- ▶ Description of phenotypical and functional changes in MSCs in acute and chronic leukemia, myelodysplastic diseases, multiple myeloma, and lymphomas
- ▶ Characterization of MSCs from other diseases with clear or so far unknown involvement of the bone marrow (mastocytosis, autoimmune processes, etc.)
- ▶ Identification of markers in MSCs that can predict overall prognosis as well as therapeutic response in hematologic cancers and other diseases
- ▶ Analysis of cellular changes in MSCs in response to chemotherapy and other therapeutic regimens
- ▶ Testing tumor supporting function of leukemia/lymphoma derived MSCs in animal models
- ▶ Comparison of uncultured and culture-expanded bone marrow MSCs from various diseases
- ▶ Heterogeneity of bone marrow MSCs in various pathologic processes
- ▶ Development of novel therapeutic strategies to target impaired MSCs in hematologic malignancies and other pathologic settings

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

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