

Special Issue on
**Metastatic Cancer Stem Cells and Circulating Tumor
Cells: Challenges and Opportunities in Cancer Metastasis**

CALL FOR PAPERS

Metastasis is the major cause of cancer-related mortality. However, the metastatic process is highly inefficient. Experimental models estimate that less than 0.01% of the circulating tumor cells (CTCs), which have entered the bloodstream, eventually form metastases. One mechanism to explain this inefficiency is provided by the cancer stem cell theory, which hypothesizes that only metastatic cancer stem cells (MCSCs) can establish metastasis. Future studies are necessary not only to detect CTCs but also to characterize them. It is urgent to identify the subpopulation of MCSCs in CTCs and develop effective therapeutics by targeting MCSCs to eradicate metastasis.

The purpose of this special issue is to publish high-quality original research papers as well as review articles addressing recent advances in metastatic cancer stem cell research. Preference will be given to papers characterizing CTCs and their relevance in cancer metastasis.

Potential topics include but are not limited to the following:

- ▶ Characterization of CTCs
- ▶ New markers for MCSCs
- ▶ New biomarkers for cancer metastasis
- ▶ Epithelial-to-mesenchymal transition (EMT) in CTCs and metastasis
- ▶ Clinical relevance between CTCs and cancer metastasis
- ▶ New technologies and methods for CTC capture, characterization, imaging, and *ex vivo* expansion
- ▶ Genetic and epigenetic analysis of MCSCs and CTCs
- ▶ New molecules and signaling pathways in cancer metastasis
- ▶ New drugs and strategies to treat metastatic cancers

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

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First Round of Reviews

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