



Amniotic Fluid and Placental Membranes as Sources of Stem Cells: Progress and Challenges

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Message from the Guest Editors

Stem cell research drew the attention toward amniotic membrane and amniotic fluid stem cells, since these sources possess many advantages: first of all cells can be extracted from discarded fetal material, secondly abundant stem cells can be obtained and finally, these stem cell sources are free from ethical considerations and tumorigenicity. Stem cells derived from amniotic fluid and membranes possess embryonic stem cell-like differentiation capability and, similar to mesenchymal stem cells, are also able to modulate the local immune response. Their reduced immunogenicity and immunomodulatory properties allow their use in allo and xeno-transplantation settings. These, and other properties, make these cells attractive for cellular therapy.

This Special Issue on “Amniotic fluid and placental membranes as sources of stem cells: progress and challenges” welcomes original research articles that illustrate and stimulate the growing efforts to understand the implication of stem cells in pathological conditions such as cardiovascular and metabolic diseases, inflammatory, autoimmune, skeletal and degenerative diseases.

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Message from the Editor-in-Chief

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