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Molecular Mechanisms of Muscular Dystrophy

Guest Editor:

Dr. Jeffrey Glennon
Mass Spectrometry Core Facility, UCD Conway Institute of Biomolecular & Biomedical Research, University College Dublin, Dublin, Ireland

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Message from the Guest Editor

Muscular dystrophies constitute a heterogeneous set of diseases primarily characterized by muscle weakness. These are often multisystem in nature and present with effects primarily on the muscular, cardiac, and central nervous systems. These diverse muscular dystrophies encompass those with myotonic (both type I and II), congenital and limb-girdle forms but also include the Duchenne, Becker, and facioscapulohumeral (FSHD) muscular dystrophies. A range of genetic mutations and splicing events across these muscular dystrophies prevent optimal protein production and disrupt effective cellular communication. Current research across muscular dystrophies implicates a role for regulatory mechanisms at the level of both transcriptomic and epigenomic events in the disease phenotype and suggests that the severity of disease is not solely dictated by events related to the underlying genetic mutation. In order to further categorize the molecular substrates underlying these diverse muscular dystrophies, their severity and potential treatment approaches, translational approaches in both cellular and animal models as well as humans are needed.

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Editor-in-Chief

Prof. Dr. Maurizio Battino
Department of Odontostomatologic and Specialized Clinical Sciences, Sez-Biochimica, Faculty of Medicine, Università Politecnica delle Marche, Via Ranieri 65, 60100 Ancona, Italy

Message from the Editor-in-Chief

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International Journal of Molecular Sciences Editorial Office
MDPI, St. Alban-Anlage 66
4052 Basel, Switzerland

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