



## Peripheral Artery Disease: From Molecular Mechanisms to Therapeutic Approaches

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### Message from the Guest Editors

Peripheral artery disease (PAD) refers to atherosclerosis causing impaired blood flow in vessels outside the heart, most commonly affecting arteries of the lower extremities. There are two classic clinical presentations of PAD: intermittent claudication and critical limb ischemia. Individuals with intermittent claudication typically present with pain with ambulation that is relieved by rest, while those with critical limb ischemia (CLI) present with pain at rest and often have associated ulceration or gangrene. This form of PAD is associated with a high risk of limb amputation and death. The prevalence of PAD is now estimated to be higher than that of ischemic heart disease and cerebrovascular disease combined. Unlike ischemic heart disease and cerebrovascular disease, less is known about the molecular mechanisms driving the development of PAD. Moreover, diabetes, smoking and aging are critical drivers of PAD but how these factors contribute to PAD development and poorer outcomes in PAD is not well known. Currently, there are no effective medical treatments addressing the key issues in PAD, which are impaired blood flow and limb ischemic injury.





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