

Call for Papers

Journal of Epithelial Biology and Pharmacology (JEBP)

Special Issue on:

'Epithelial-mesenchymal Transitions in Cancer and Fibrosis'

Epithelial-Mesenchymal Transition (EMT) has been well-recognized as an essential and highly regulated morphogenetic process during vertebrate embryogenesis. In undergoing EMT, cells lose their epithelial properties, while acquiring mesenchymal properties that enable cells to migrate to predetermined destinations. Cells also undergo the reverse process – *i.e.*, mesenchymal-epithelial transition (MET) – which is required for further morphogenesis, once they reach their destination. The idea that a similar process is also recapitulated during the pathogenesis of epithelial tumors and fibrosis is significantly gaining ground as investigations in this area have grown exponentially in last few years. It is now widely accepted that EMT plays an important role during tumor progression and fibrosis. However, the precise contribution of EMT to tumor metastasis and fibrosis is still a subject of considerable debate in the scientific literature. Primary arguments underlying the contentious nature of EMT concern the lack of concrete *in vivo* evidence demonstrating a true phenotypic switch occurring during EMT, as well as the inability of science and medicine to ascertain why only select tumors undergo EMT *in vitro* and whether EMT simply reflects genomic instability. All these questions and issues need to be addressed experimentally before a thorough understanding of EMT can be appreciated. Despite this limitation, many laboratories in academia and industry are actively designing novel chemotherapeutics capable of targeting EMT during tumor progression and fibrosis.

For this special issue, we invite investigators to submit original research articles or reviews that address the role of EMT and MET in the pathophysiology of tumor progression and tissue fibrosis. The main topics to be covered will include, but are not limited to:

- *Signaling mechanisms involved in EMT*
- *EMT and MET in tumor metastasis*
- *Tumor stem cells and EMT*
- *EMT in tumor-stromal interactions*
- *Contribution of EMT to tissue fibrosis*

Authors should follow the JEBP Research manuscript format described in the instructions to authors at the journal site <http://www.bentham.org/open/jebp/MSandI.htm>. Prospective authors should submit an electronic copy of their complete manuscript through the online submission service available *via* FTP at <http://www.bentham-ftp.org/open/?jebp> or *via* email to editorial@jebiopharm.org according to the following time table. Manuscripts that are determined to be outside the scope of the special issue will be considered for the regular issue of the journal.

Manuscripts due: **September 1st 2008**

Publication date: **Immediately Published Online after Peer Review**

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