DESCRIPTION

The journal *Cytokine* has an open access mirror journal *Cytokine: X* which has the same aims and scope and peer-review process. To submit to *Cytokine: X* visit https://www.editorialmanager.com/CYTOX/default.aspx.

*Cytokine* will publish studies that report on the molecular biology, signal transduction, genetics, biochemistry, immunology, genome-wide association, pathobiology, diagnostic, clinical, and therapeutic applications of all known and emerging cytokines, cytotoxins, interferons, chemokines, adipokines, matrikines, hematopoietic factors, and growth factors. Studies reporting all signaling molecules from the pathogens and host-endogenous sources, metabolic products/adducts that mediate inflammation and immunity, either influence and/or operate under this broad class of "biological response modifiers" as they relate to host defenses and immune responses will be considered for publication.

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INTRODUCTION

Cytokine has an open access mirror journal, Cytokine: X. An official journal of the International Cytokine and Interferon Society (ICIS)

Cytokine is devoted exclusively to the study of the molecular biology, biochemistry, immunology, diagnostic and clinical applications of all known interleukins, hematopoietic factors, growth factors, cytotoxins, interferons, and new cytokines. Cytokine provides comprehensive coverage of cytokines and their receptors, 12 times a year, by publishing original high quality refereed scientific papers from prominent investigators in both the academic and industrial sectors.

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New requirements: Authors must provide the name, position, institution, and e-mail contacts of at least 5 potential reviewers, who are not the collaborators, friends and relatives, and are working at the authors’ organization/institution.

Authors cannot use broad terminologies, such as Cytokines, Chicken, Human, etc., at the time of submission of their manuscripts. Such terms are not useful for identifying potential reviewers. They should provide at least 6 keywords based on the content of the study. For example, if an author is submitting a paper, "Interleukin-6 effects on arthritis and the study describes therapy with a new drug and the discovery of biomarkers for the action of the said drug" they must provide some keywords like the following: IL-6, arthritis, transcriptome, signal transduction, inhibition, B-cells, macrophage, therapeutics.

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Author response (rebuttal) to review comments must be complete. Responses such as, "Done", "Completed", "Changed", "Modified as suggested" are no longer acceptable. The rebuttal must indicate the details of all modifications made in response to each question/concern raised in the review. Such details must include the exact page numbers, paragraphs, figure or table numbers, subsection of a manuscript. They also must detail all data changes (deleted or added) to the revised manuscript and references (added or deleted), the subpanels of a figure, or the columns and rows of the revised manuscript where the new data are presented. Manuscripts not adhering to these instructions will not be considered.

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Inferences drawn basing on results from a single-cell line can be misleading. Authors must ensure to reproduce their fundamental observations in 2-3 cell lines of a similar cell and tissue type. It does not mean that every experiment in the study must be repeated in all cell lines, authors are also encouraged to provide in vivo evidence for better reality check of an appropriate disease or physiology insight model.

Mycoplasma contamination of cell lines produces spurious data. Authors should certify in the Material and Methods section in written statement that cell lines in their study have been tested and found free of Mycoplasma.

A significant concern worldwide is the contamination of cell lines with other cell types or cancer types. Authors should certify that the cell lines’ authenticity was verified using STTR markers, whole-genome sequencing, or an equivalent method. Disclose details of analysis in the Material and Methods section.

Several antibodies for the same protein for different applications are commercially available, e.g., Western blot, Immunoprecipitation, Immunohistochemistry, ELISA, and Chromatin Immunoprecipitation analyses. Many are not suitable for all/some of the applications. In light of these, authors should mention the Source of the antibody, Catalog number, the intent (e.g. Western) and dilutions used in their study.

All primers, their sequence and the expected PCR product sizes must be presented in a tabular format. The application for which a primer set was used (for example RT-PCR, or ChIP assay, mutational analyses) should be indicated in the table legend.

Unless there are large data sets that cannot fit into a standard figure or table, all relevant supplementary data should be part of the main paper for an easier understanding.

The importance of a protein involved in a given biological process must be validated using RNAi technology. shRNA expression vectors for many genes are commercially available. A control shRNA and a gene-specific shRNA must be included when validating the data. Exogenous add-back of knocked-down gene product could be used for better validation controls of phenotypes as well. Authors must evaluate quantitatively the efficiency of knockdown in their experimental system.

Studies using animal models should include both equal/comparable numbers of females and males to establish a global relevance to both genders. Some exceptions to this requirement are: 1) the disease is gender-specific (e.g., breast cancer in females and prostate cancer in males); and 2) the genetic model produces the disease only in a gender-specific manner. The authors should make explicit statements in case only one gender was mainly used for experimental read out. Power calculations for choosing the numbers of animals per each experimental group, Statistical methods used, the exact significance of the differences must be indicated for each experiment.

**Types of paper**

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**Short Communications.** These submissions will also undergo standard review. Manuscripts should not exceed 2000 words plus no more than 15 references. Your cover letter must include your word count. Results and Discussion sections may be combined. No more than 2 Figures and/or Tables should be included.
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**CYTOKINE policy on papers using cell lines** In light of increasing evidence that many cell lines grown in some labs previously (Bian et al, A Combination of Species Identification and STR Profiling Identifies Cross-contaminated Cells from 482 Human Tumor Cell Lines. Sci Rep. 2017 Aug 29;7(1):9774; Ye et al, Genetic profiling reveals an alarming rate of cross-contamination among human cell lines used in China. FASEB J. 2015 Oct;29(10):4268-72) may have been cross-contaminated (https://iclac.org/databases/cross-contaminations/), Cytokine is concerned about the validity of the data obtained using such cell lines. Therefore, all studies that report cell line-based data should authenticate the cell lines used. Some recommended methods for authenticating cell lines can be found here: https://www.atcc.org/en/Services/Testing_Services/Cell_Authentication_Testing_Service/Cell_Line_Authentication_Test_Recommendations.aspx https://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pmc/articles/PMC4907466/. The authors should make an explicit statement in the Materials and Methods section that their specific cell lines have been verified using one of the above methods.

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1) All genetic polymorphism (such as Single Nucleotide Polymorphism) analyses must include at least 400 individual samples.

2) SNP data must be accompanied with the measurement of specific immunological parameters such as cytokine measurement, flow cytometry, cellular responses, etc., demonstrating a comparison of biological data between subjects with the genetic variant and those who lack the genetic variant being studied. Expression of cell surface receptors by flow coupled with the genetics of that receptor, or looking at TH1/TH2 skewing or cellular maturation in the setting of particular variants are recommended.

3) Papers lacking such data will not be considered for review.

**Types of paper**

**New policies following an editorial meeting at Vienna, Oct 20, 2019:**

Since many manuscripts are taking longer than the usual time to publish from the date of first submission and it is becoming increasingly difficult to recruit reviewers, the editorial board in consultation with the Editor-in-Chief, and the publisher, made the following recommendations. These guidelines will be updated at the submission website too.

Manuscripts will be reviewed to a maximum of 3 rounds (i.e., original + 2 rounds of revision). A revision of manuscript is indicated by the letter R. After the original review is completed, reviewer comments will be provided to authors. The authors must complete all major revisions in the R1 version. Major revisions include providing data from additional experiments, data presentation and analyses, and quality of the images and the correct use of scientific English. Only minor revisions such as modification of an interpretation, missing references, replotting the data or order of figure presentation (if necessary), and inclusion of a missing control will be allowed in the R2 version. If a manuscript is not suitably modified by the R2 stage, editors can reject a further review.

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Authors must provide the name, position, institution, and e-mail contacts of at least 5 potential reviewers, who are not the collaborators, friends and relatives, and are working at the authors' organization/institution.
Authors cannot use broad terminologies, such as Cytokines, Chicken, Human, etc., at the time of submission of their manuscripts. Such terms are not useful for identifying potential reviewers. They should provide at least 6 keywords based on the content of the study. For example, if an author is submitting a paper, "Interleukin-6 effects on arthritis and the study describes therapy with a new drug and the discovery of biomarkers for the action of the said drug" they must provide some keywords like the following: IL-6, arthritis, transcriptome, signal transduction, inhibition, B-cells, macrophage, therapeutics.

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