

Matrix in Medicine Series Announcement

The extracellular matrix constitutes a major portion of the human body. It plays a key role in the structural organization of tissues, providing them with strength, rigidity, or elasticity, serving as a barrier, and ensuring tissue/organ compartmentalization. The extracellular matrix interacts with most cell types, and cell-matrix interactions regulate essential cellular functions including differentiation, proliferation, migration, and cell survival/cell death. Interactions of extracellular matrix with growth factors and other regulatory molecules are also critical in tissue homeostasis. The extracellular matrix is required for normal development and physiology, but it also is responsive to both acute and chronic injury and plays a crucial role in tissue repair and regeneration. Given the importance of extracellular matrix in human physiology, alterations in its composition, functions, and interactions with cells and secreted molecules are implicated in a vast array of human genetic and acquired diseases. Thus, a better understanding of the roles of the extracellular matrix and of cell-matrix interactions in human disease has the potential to identify novel factors in disease pathogenesis and to lead to design of new, targeted therapeutic approaches to treat human diseases.



To highlight the importance of extracellular matrix and cell-matrix interactions in the pathogenesis of human disease, we are introducing a special section in *Matrix Biology* called “Matrix in Medicine.” Review articles published in the “Matrix in Medicine” series are intended for both scientists and clinicians and should emphasize the relevance of extracellular matrix to fundamental biological processes involved in human diseases. *These articles will discuss the clinical aspects of a particular human disease with an emphasis on the underlying extracellular matrix-focused molecular mechanisms in the disease pathogenesis and/or potential for extracellular matrix targeted therapeutic interventions.* The intent is to publish at least one “Matrix in Medicine” review in each of the 8 yearly issues of *Matrix Biology*.

Submissions should highlight the role of extracellular matrix in important clinical problems and will undergo rigorous peer review characteristic of all submissions to *Matrix Biology*. Articles should be submitted through the “Matrix in Medicine” submission option at the *Matrix Biology* website <https://www.sciencedirect.com/journal/matrix-biology>.