Special Issue: Epithelial-Mesenchymal Transition 2020

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Continuing a long-standing tradition and relationship, it is a pleasure to introduce this new *Cells Tissues Organs* Special Issue arising from the most recent 9th TEMPTIA meeting at Kumamoto University, Kumamoto, Japan, held from November 11 to 14, 2019. This was the 1st TEMPTIA meeting in Japan and a great opportunity to hear more from the epithelial-mesenchymal transition (EMT)-rich nation and be updated internationally. Forty-eight speakers (27 invited and 21 selected from abstract submissions) and 170 total delegates from 20 countries or regions (Australia, Belgium, China, France, Germany, Hong Kong, India, Ireland, Israel, Japan, Korea, Malaysia, Poland, Singapore, Spain, Sweden, Switzerland, Taiwan, the UK, and the USA) enjoyed the beautiful, interesting, and inspiring surrounds to share in a rich diversity of talks bridging the major EMT disciplines of Development, Cell, Cancer, and Fibrosis, as is the TEMPTIA charter (<https://temptia.org/Home/About#>). These meetings provide an excellent opportunity to share both meth-

odological developments and new knowledge arising in these different themes.

Many of the current and topical themes are represented in the manuscripts contained within this Special Issue, and we express our gratitude to the authors and reviewers. A somewhat nostalgic walk down memory lane in the form of a virtual interview by Guojun Sheng of Rik Thompson, Don Newgreen, and Hans-Werner Denker sets the scene for the cross-disciplinary contributions ranging from the conserved roles of netrins in development and wound healing (Michael Murray), EMT biomarkers in cancer (Christine Gilles) – especially the hybrid state (Rik Thompson), OVOL1 and 2 drivers in development, disease, and reprogramming (Mohit Kumar Jolly), novel use of the chick chorioallantoic membrane (CAM) as an alternative model for cancer EMT studies (Ruby Huang), the roles of calcium signaling (Shama Prasada), ribosomes (Kunimasa Ohta), and alternative splicing (Chonghui Cheng) in EMT, and new developments in targeting EMT (Steven Goossens). These papers reflect the continuum that our field enjoys in terms of both the biological systems (development, repair, and disease – especially cancer), but also from the basic understanding, molecular regulation, prognostic value, and

potential for therapeutic targeting. They set the scene and provide a contextual framework for further developments, which we look forward to hearing about at TEM-TIX-X, which has been rescheduled for Paris in Autumn 2022 due to COVID-19.

Conflict of Interest Statement

The authors have no conflicts of interest to declare.

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Author Contributions

E.W.T. drafted the document and G.S. provided additional content and editing. Both authors have reviewed and approved the manuscript.