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Apoptosis at a glance: Death or life? (Review)

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Abstract

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Apoptosis or programmed cell death that is genetically regulated is a process for killing cells. It is essential for the normal function of organisms and therefore variety of diseases including autoimmunity and cancer result from any defect in this physiological process. Two pathways are responsible for signalling apoptosis: intrinsic or mitochondrial pathway and extrinsic or death receptor pathway. As a final result of this process, cell destruction activated by a family of cysteine proteases (caspases) takes place. This article summarizes current knowledge of apoptosis.

Reaxys Database Information

Author keywords

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Indexed Keywords

EMTREE drug terms: caspase; cysteine proteinase; death receptor

EMTREE medical terms: apoptosis; autoimmunity; biological phenomena and functions concerning the entire organism; cell destruction; enzyme activation; gene control; mitochondrion; review; signal transduction

Chemicals and CAS Registry Numbers: caspase, 186322-81-6; cysteine proteinase, 37353-41-6

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