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Shaping vessels and microenvironment: adipose stromal cells in retinal-related diseases  
Vincenzo Terlizzi

1. Mesenchymal stromal/stem cells hold therapeutic benefits to reduce the impact of diabetic retinopathy. (This thesis)
2. The effects and adaptation of ASC pericytic-like phenotype depends on the stimuli of the whole retinal microenvironment, bearing in mind that ameliorating the blood retinal barrier is only one of the challenges. (This thesis)
3. The pericytic phenotype of adipose-tissue derived stromal cells is promoted by NOTCH2. (This thesis)
4. Adipose tissue-derived stromal/stem cells movement, organization and vasculogenic activity in confined three-dimensional microenvironments is a fundamental approach to tackle morphogenic capacities of therapeutic cells. (This thesis)
5. Exploiting the self-organizing capacity of mammalian cells, allows the mimicking of structural details of organs in culture (This thesis).
6. Accessory proteins contribute to the extracellular matrix organization of the retina. (This thesis)
7. We need to understand structures not just in reductionist terms but also in terms of the adaptative usefulness of those structures and the processes in the whole organism and the species of which it is a part. (Gaylord Simpson, This View of Life)
8. We shall not rest satisfied until we are able to represent all physical phenomena as an interplay of a vast number of structural units intrinsically alike. (Arthur Eddington)
9. Once there was physics and there was chemistry but there was no biology. (Julius Rebek)
10. Nature has placed mankind under the governance of two sovereign masters, pain and pleasure. It is for them alone to point out what we ought to do, as well as to determine what we shall do. (Jeremy Bentham, Introduction to the Principle of Morals and Legislation).