

Mini-Symposium: Ageing and Epigenetics

Preface

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The use of assisted reproductive technology (ART) has become widespread, and about 2% of births in Japan are enabled by ART, because it is considered safe. However, beginning in the 2000s, an increase in imprinting disorders in children born after ART has been reported compared with children born by natural conception. Epigenesis is a phenomenon in which different gene expressions occur in cells without genomic information, and most epigenetic changes occur at the time of gametogenesis and early embryonic development. Therefore, there is a concern that ART may influence epigenesis. Moreover, the background to the widespread use of ART is the increasing age of patients, which clearly increases the risks of pregnancy. To address these issues, we here present a mini-symposium on the theme of aging and epigenetics. We hope this mini-symposium will cultivate a better understanding of and develop a higher interest in this field.