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Small Heat Shock Protein

National Cancer Institute

Source

National Cancer Institute. *Small Heat Shock Protein*. NCI Thesaurus. Code C136829.

A family of chaperone proteins with subunit molecular masses of 12-43 kDa. The members are characterized by the presence of a highly conserved stretch of 80-100 amino acids in their C-terminal domains called the alpha-crystallin domain (ACD). Class I small heat shock proteins (sHsps) are widely expressed and play a role in cell survival. Class II sHsps are expressed in tissue-specific patterns and may be involved in the differentiation, development and specific functionality for the tissues they are expressed in.