

Lymphatic Disease: Where Have We Been? Where Are We Going?

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The lymphatic vascular system has been recognized for centuries and its vital role in normal physiological function is undisputed. However, paradoxically, diseases of the lymphatic vasculature have been relatively neglected in recent clinical practice and biomedical investigation. Nevertheless, the last decade has witnessed an unprecedented series of discoveries related to lymphatic development, function, genetics and pathology. These advances will be discussed within the context of a historical overview of this complex and fascinating field of human anatomy and function.