



*genes*



an Open Access Journal by MDPI

## Viral Genes and the Host: Evolution in Action

Guest Editors:

### **Dr. Antoinette Van der Kuyl**

Laboratory of Experimental Virology, Department of Medical Microbiology, Amsterdam UMC, University of Amsterdam, Meibergdreef 9, 1105 AZ Amsterdam, The Netherlands

### **Prof. Dr. Ben Berkhout**

Laboratory of Experimental Virology, Department of Medical Microbiology, University of Amsterdam, Meibergdreef 15, 1105 AZ Amsterdam, The Netherlands

Deadline for manuscript submissions:

**closed (31 May 2019)**

### **Message from the Guest Editors**

Viruses are essentially transmissible RNA or DNA molecules acting as free-roaming genes that amplify in an organism before spreading to other individuals. Viruses rely heavily on host cells for their proliferation and, in the process, frequently derail cellular pathways to optimize virus production. Despite this intense virus-host interaction, the structure, expression and replication of viral genes sets them apart from cellular genes. Furthermore, viruses are extremely divergent and employ various propagation strategies, ranging from the transient infection of only a small subset of a susceptible host population to persistent infection with a close to 100% prevalence. And, surprisingly, we are partly descended from viruses: our chromosomes are riddled with the remains of retroviral infections of the past. If one has a closer look, other viruses have their genes inserted into host chromosomes as well. Of course, the addition of viral genetic elements has not been without effect. Together, the fascinating aspects of a completely different world of genes are the topic of a Special Issue of *Genes*: “Viral Genes and the Host: Evolution in Action”.



[mdpi.com/si/17168](https://mdpi.com/si/17168)

# Special Issue



*genes*



an Open Access Journal by MDPI

## Editor-in-Chief

### **Prof. Dr. Selvarangan Ponnazhagan**

Department of Pathology, The  
University of Alabama at  
Birmingham, 1825 University  
Blvd, SHEL 814, Birmingham, AL  
35294-2182, USA

## Message from the Editor-in-Chief

Genes are central to our understanding of biology, and modern advances such as genomics and genome editing have maintained genetics as a vibrant, diverse and fastmoving field. There is a need for good quality, open access journals in this area, and the *Genes* team aims to provide expert manuscript handling, serious peer review, and rapid publication across the whole discipline of genetics. Starting in 2010, the journal is now well established and recognised.

Why not consider *Genes* for your next genetics paper?

## Author Benefits

**Open Access:** free for readers, with article processing charges (APC) paid by authors or their institutions.

**High Visibility:** indexed within Scopus, SCIE (Web of Science), PubMed, MEDLINE, PMC, Embase, PubAg, and other databases.

**Journal Rank:** JCR - Q2 (*Genetics & Heredity*) / CiteScore - Q2 (*Genetics*)

## Contact Us

*Genes* Editorial Office  
MDPI, St. Alban-Anlage 66  
4052 Basel, Switzerland

Tel: +41 61 683 77 34  
[www.mdpi.com](http://www.mdpi.com)

[mdpi.com/journal/genes](http://mdpi.com/journal/genes)  
[genes@mdpi.com](mailto:genes@mdpi.com)  
[X@Genes\\_MDPI](https://twitter.com/Genes_MDPI)