



## **DNA Vaccines: Current Perspectives and Research**

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### **Message from the Guest Editor**

Vaccination represents one of civilization's greatest medical advances. Vaccines save millions of lives, significantly reduce the incidence of a variety of communicable diseases, boost economic growth in low- and middle-income countries, further human productivity, and played an instrumental role in the eradication of smallpox and the near-eradication of polio. However, conventional vaccines suffer from a few shortcomings. Vaccine efficacy can vary by vaccine target, formulation, and age group. Effective vaccines have been difficult to develop for several global infectious disease threats including tuberculosis, HIV, and malaria. Challenges persist in distributing vaccines to the poorest parts of the globe. As such, scientists and clinicians have turned to alternative immunization technologies for the development of next generation vaccines. More than two decades ago, researchers found that the injection of DNA could lead to the induction of an immune response against the encoded antigen in recipients. Since then, interest and excitement in DNA vaccines has exploded.





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## Message from the Editor-in-Chief

Addressing the environmental and public health challenges requires engagement and collaboration among clinicians and public health researchers. Discovery and advances in this research field play a critical role in providing a scientific basis for decision-making toward control and prevention of human diseases, especially the illnesses that are induced from environmental exposure to health hazards. *IJERPH* provides a forum for discussion of discoveries and knowledge in these multidisciplinary fields. Please consider publishing your research in this high quality, peer-reviewed, open access journal.

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