Recombination as an Evolutionary Force in Animal Viruses

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Message from the Guest Editor

Recombination has long been recognized as an important driver of evolution in viruses, particularly in those with RNA genomes, by rapidly creating genetic diversity. Such diversity is achieved through a non-reciprocal combination of genomic segments from at least two viruses that co-infect the same host cell. The new genomic architecture of the resulting recombinant virus can positively contribute to viral fitness and allow adaptation to new environments and hosts. Indeed, recombination has been frequently associated with the emergence of new viruses and outbreaks, the expansion of the host range and species jump, changes in virulence and pathogenesis, the alteration of tissue tropism, evasion from host immunity and antiviral resistance.

This Special Issue of *Viruses* aims to gather a series of articles—original research and reviews—on recombination in RNA and DNA animal viruses, with emphasis on recombination mechanisms, evolutionary aspects of recombination, and recombination as a driver of virus emergence and species jump. Novel bioinformatic approaches for the detection and characterization of recombination events in animal viruses are also welcome.

Special Issue

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Message from the Editor-in-Chief

Viruses (ISSN 1999-4915) is an open access journal which provides an advanced forum for studies of viruses. It publishes reviews, regular research papers, communications, conference reports and short notes. Our aim is to encourage scientists to publish their experimental and theoretical results in as much detail as possible. There is no restriction on the length of the papers. The full experimental details must be provided so that the results can be reproduced. We also encourage the publication of timely reviews and commentaries on topics of interest to the virology community and feature highlights from the virology literature in the 'News and Views' section.

Electronic files or software regarding the full details of the calculation and experimental procedure, if unable to be published in a normal way, can be deposited as supplementary material.

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