Message from the Guest Editor

Dear Colleagues,

Tetraspanins control membrane-based processes such as cell-cell adhesion, migration, and fusion of cellular membranes. Not all that surprisingly, then, members of this family of integral membrane proteins have been implicated in the replication of various viruses. These include, among others, retroviruses (e.g. HIV-1 and HTLV), or HCV, the etiological agent for hepatitis C, for which the tetraspanin CD81 (together with other cell-surface molecules) has been shown to be critical for viral entry.

For this special issue of Viruses, we seek reports on research that will elucidate how exactly specific tetraspanins control discrete steps of viral life cycles. It is our hope that, together, these articles will further our understanding of how these molecular scaffolds regulate the interplay between viruses and their hosts.

Prof. Dr. Markus Thali
Guest Editor

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