

Special Issue

Epigenetics and Chromosome Biology

Message from the Guest Editors

Besides conducting their fundamental *in vivo* actions, transcription, replication, and DNA repair must contend with the chromatin environment. The plethora of histone covalent modifications and the enzymes that place or remove them have deep impacts on the biology and pathology of virtually all eukaryotes. Besides directly governing classical intermolecular recognition, the stereochemical arrangement and chemical state of nucleosomes may contribute to the folding and spatial partitioning of genes and chromosomal segments, subject to the physics of the transmission of force and torque through DNA and chromatin and to the physical chemical constraints of phase separations within the nucleus while also accommodating the biochemical events surrounding transcription, DNA replication, and DNA repair. It is this imposition of multiple, independent layers of regulation and organization on gene regulation, repair, and replication that confers robustness and plasticity to these events.

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Genes is central to our understanding of biology, and modern advances such as genomics and genome editing have maintained genetics as a vibrant, diverse and fast-moving 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?

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