Special Issue

Structural Genetic Variation

Message from the Guest Editors

Large-scale changes in chromosomes not only remodel their structure but also can modify gene content, gene order, gene regulation, and can even create the raw material for new gene functions. In this way, structural variants are increasingly recognized as a category of genetic change, with high potential to impact the phenotype and organismal fitness, thus contributing to disease, adaptation, and species differentiation. Nevertheless, structural variation has been understudied, largely because technical limitations have prevented its reliable characterization at the sequence level, in turn hindering the proper analysis of the functional and phenotypic consequences of this variation. In this Special Issue, we aim to publish review and original research papers that address a wide variety of topics associated with structural variation, including how to accurately discover and characterize structural variation using third-generation sequencing technologies, the quantification of the effects of structural variation on fitness, the characterization of the variation in repeats and selfish genetic elements, and how structural changes influence repertoires of gene function.

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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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