Special Issue

Hepatitis C Virus – Molecular Biology, Disease and Treatment (Section 1) 2.0

Message from the Guest Editor

Hepatitis C Virus (HCV) preferentially replicates in the human liver and frequently causes chronic infection, often leading to cirrhosis and liver cancer. HCV is an enveloped virus classified in the genus Hepacivirus in the family *Flaviviridae* and has a single-stranded RNA genome of positive orientation. The HCV RNA genome is translated by virtue of an internal ribosome entry site. After a pilot round of genome translation, replication factories called “membranous webs” are formed in the cytoplasm, which are the sites of genome replication. During RNA genome synthesis, the error-prone viral replicase provides a high mutation rate in the genome, allowing the virus to easily escape from host immune responses and treatment. Moreover, viral proteins interfere with the immune response in order to establish an ongoing chronic infection “under the radar” of the host. While such treatment does not protect against repeated infection, vaccines are under development. In this Special Issue, we would like to provide comprehensive overviews over important aspects of the molecular events in the HCV life cycle, disease development and the current state of HCV treatment.

Guest Editor

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The International Journal of Molecular Sciences (*IJMS*, ISSN 1422-0067) is an open access journal, which was established in 2000. The journal aims to provide a forum for scholarly research on a range of topics, including biochemistry, molecular and cell biology, molecular biophysics, molecular medicine, and all aspects of molecular research in chemistry. *IJMS* publishes both original research and review articles, and regularly publishes special issues to highlight advances at the cutting edge of research. We invite you to read recent articles published in *IJMS* and consider publishing your next paper with us.

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