

Special Issue

Advances in Genome Editing

Message from the Guest Editors

Since the birth of civilization, human beings have manipulated other life forms. The ability to directly engineer the genomes of organisms first became possible in the 1970s, when the gene for human insulin was introduced into bacteria to produce this protein for diabetics. In the past few years, the pace of progress has accelerated enormously. We can now cut and paste genes using 'molecular scissors' with astonishing ease, and the new technology of genome editing can be applied to practically any species of plants or animals. Genome editing is transforming medical research and is already being tested as a direct treatment for human disease. However, these powerful new techniques also raise important ethical dilemmas and potential dangers, pressing issues that we need to face, given the speed of scientific developments. This Special Issue will consider papers on new scientific developments in genome editing and their latest implications in various areas of biotechnology.

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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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