

Special Issue

Biology of Cytomegalovirus Infection

Message from the Guest Editors

Herpesviruses extensively reorganize membranous organelles of cells to establish a proper environment for the assembly of virions and virus shedding. Beta-herpesviruses, for example, establish a new organelle structure, which is the size of the nucleus. Most of these alterations are associated with the development of the cytoplasmic virus-manufacturing factory, known as the assembly compartment (AC). The composition and the biogenesis of AC are far from being understood. These extensive reorganizations are associated with reshaping of the cytoskeleton, alteration of the cytokinesis machinery, reconfiguration of membranous domains and compartments, redirection of the membrane flow in the infected cell, reshaping the autophagy, etc. The extensive reorganizations are associated with the alteration of many cellular processes, such as endosomal recycling and redistribution of cellular proteins, with many systemic physiological consequences, such as immune evasion. All these alterations are associated either with the expression of herpesvirus genes and their interaction with the cellular regulatory machinery or cellular stress associated with the infection.

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