Special Issue

Physiological and Pathophysiological Aspects of Endogenous Viruses

Message from the Guest Editors

The genomes of higher eukaryotes contain thousands of sequences with sequence similarity to viruses. For instance, endogenous retroviruses are common contaminants of vertebrate genomes and endogenous caulimoviruses can be found regularly in genomes of flowering plants. Such sequences are considered to be remnants of germ line infections with exogenous viruses. Usually these sequences do not allow the synthesis of complete virions but some of them contain open reading frames that allow the translation of individual proteins. In addition, regulatory elements from these endogenous viruses can influence gene expression in the host cell. Only few sequences, e.g. the syncytins in mammals, have known functions. However, growing evidence indicates that endogenous viruses and related elements are involved in many physiological and pathophysiological processes ranging from immune-modulation to cancer and autoimmunity. We invite authors who are experts in this field to contribute original articles or review articles that are not yet published or that are not currently under review by other journals.

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"Microorganism" merges the idea of the very small with the idea of the evolving reproducing organism is a unifying principle for the discipline of microbiology. Our journal recognizes the broadly diverse yet connected nature of microorganisms and provides an advanced publishing forum for original articles from scientists involved in high-quality basic and applied research on any prokaryotic or eukaryotic microorganism, and for research on the ecology, genomics and evolution of microbial communities as well as that exploring cultured microorganisms in the laboratory.

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