

Special Issue

Design and Evaluation of Molecular Adjuvants for Human and Veterinary Vaccines

Message from the Guest Editors

The progressive replacement of conventional live attenuated and inactivated whole cell vaccines with new generation of subunit vaccines based in purified, recombinant, synthetic and nucleic acid-based vaccines (DNA or RNA) has generally reduced reactogenicity but also immunogenicity. Therefore, adjuvants and delivery systems are key components that are used to optimize and to enhance the efficacy of vaccines. The majority of known adjuvants have been empirically identified and are often associated with adverse reactions. Adjuvant-induced toxicity considerably limits their use in human and veterinary vaccines. The reduced immunogenicity of new vaccine antigens and the need for safer vaccines have increased the importance of identifying single, well-defined adjuvants with known molecular targets and mechanisms of action for rational vaccine design. This Special Issue focuses on current approaches and challenges to modulate the immune response with molecular adjuvants for vaccine improvement. This is a topic of intense current research in vaccinology.

Guest Editors

Prof. Dr. Suh-Chin Wu

1. Institute of Biotechnology, National Tsing Hua University, Hsinchu 30013, Taiwan
2. Department of Medical Science, National Tsing Hua University, Hsinchu 30013, Taiwan

Dr. Alexander Batista-Duharte

Laboratório de Imunologia Clínica, Dpto Análises Clínicas, Faculdade de Ciências Farmacêuticas, Universidade Estadual Paulista (UNESP), Rod. Araraquara-Jaú-Km 1, Campus Ville, Araraquara, São Paulo 14800-903, Brazil

Deadline for manuscript submissions

closed (20 June 2022)



Pharmaceutics

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Impact Factor 5.5
CiteScore 10.0
Indexed in PubMed



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4052 Basel, Switzerland
Tel: +41 61 683 77 34
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Prof. Dr. Patrick J. Sinko
Department of Pharmaceutics, Ernest Mario School of Pharmacy,
Rutgers University, Piscataway, NJ 08854, USA

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