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Protein- and Subunit-Based Vaccines

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Message from the Guest Editors

Protein- or subunit-based vaccines comprise whole proteins or portions of them, such as epitopes, that have been specifically chosen for their capacity to stimulate an immune response. Traditional vaccines based on whole-pathogen have been effective in preventing many infectious diseases. However, traditional vaccines have some limitations regarding security issues as many of them need to be produced in high-level biosafety facilities, implying substantial manufacturing costs.

As an alternative, protein- and subunit-based vaccines can be produced using recombinant expression systems, focusing only on the specific portion of the pathogen that triggers the immune response. They often need a substance or component that elicits a more potent humoral or cellular immune response. Different components have been used as adjuvants, and other approaches have been applied to deliver and present proteins and epitopes to the immune system.

This Special Issue focuses on protein- and subunit-based vaccines, including preclinical and clinical studies, alternative delivery and display approaches, formulation optimization, and production strategies.

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Message from the Editor-in-Chief

Vaccines (ISSN 2076-393X), founded in 2013, now has a firm history of publishing peer-reviewed, state-of-the-art research papers on vaccines and vaccination in the broadest sense. Areas covered include, but are not limited to, novel and emerging vaccine technologies, building on in-depth knowledge of what constitutes a protective immune response. These can be new vaccines for old diseases, or old vaccines for new diseases. Vaccines against cancer and autoimmune diseases explicitly are also within the scope of the journal. Because public opinion and even government policies towards vaccines and vaccination have changed, vaccine policy and public health issues are major concerns. Climate change will also have an impact on the spread of infectious diseases, and thus also on vaccine and vaccination policies worldwide.

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