



Progress on Antiviral Drugs Research in Epidemics

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Message from the Guest Editors

Viruses are among the most notorious and impactful pathogens on the planet. They continue to cause massive public health concerns mainly due to their mutagenesis which might result in spillovers, escape from the immune response, and drug resistance. Basically, the 21st century has been marked by major epidemics caused by old diseases such as yellow fever, and by emerging viruses such as severe acute respiratory syndrome (SARS), Ebola, Zika, Middle East respiratory syndrome (MERS), HIV (although technically endemic), influenza A (H1N1) and SARS-CoV-2, the last two qualified as pandemics.

Once a virus infection is established, antiviral therapy is the main option for control of viral replication and dissemination inside the organism. Several steps during the virus life cycle can be explored as molecular targets to design novel compounds or identify repurposed drugs as antiviral candidates. For this reason, multidisciplinary approaches such as organic synthesis, in silico calculations, high-throughput screening, cell-based, and in vivo assays, have been used for research and discovery of antivirals.

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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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