



100 Years of BCG Immunization: Past, Present and Future

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Message from the Guest Editors

Dear Colleagues,

In the century of BCG immunization, it has become clear that the administration of live attenuated BCG can have other effects in addition to inducing specific immunity against *M. tuberculosis*. BCG is also considered the gold standard for primary therapy of carcinoma in situ of the bladder, most likely for its capacity to activate the host innate/inflammatory response against the tumor. Despite its limitations, to date, BCG has not been surpassed by any other treatment. Along the same line, several other interesting findings suggest that BCG can have beneficial non-specific effects (NSE), from controlling hyperglycemia in type 1 diabetes to decreasing childhood mortality. The BCG NSE have received a lot of interest recently in the attempt to find effective treatments for COVID-19. The possibility is currently being investigated that BCG could prime the innate immune system of vaccinees and generate an innate immune memory able to afford a better, pathogen-agnostic antimicrobial resistance.





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Message from the Editor-in-Chief

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