Special Issue

Progress on Antiviral Drugs Research in Epidemics

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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Vaccines (ISSN 2076-393X) has had a 6-year history of publishing peer-reviewed state of the art research that advances the knowledge of immunology in human disease protection. Immunotherapeutics, prophylactic vaccines, immunomodulators, adjuvants and the global differences in regulatory affairs are some of the highlights of the research published that have shaped global health. Our open access policy allows all researchers and interested parties to immediately scrutinize the rigorous evidence our publications have to offer. We are proud to present the work and perspectives of many to contribute to future decisions concerning human health.

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