

## Special Issue

# Hepatitis B Vaccinology in a Time of Rising Mortality: Advances in Preventive and Therapeutic Vaccine Innovation

### Message from the Guest Editors

Viral hepatitis is a major global health challenge. According to the WHO Global Hepatitis Report 2024, deaths from viral hepatitis rose from 1.1 million in 2019 to 1.3 million in 2022, making it the second leading infectious cause of death worldwide—on par with tuberculosis. Hepatitis B alone accounts for 83% of these deaths (~1.1 million annually). Despite an effective vaccine being available for over 40 years, gaps in birth-dose coverage, incomplete childhood immunization, and limitations of current therapies continue to drive HBV transmission and chronic infection. The resulting burden—cirrhosis, liver failure, and liver cancer—reflects both biological complexity and systemic inequities in care. **Advances in immune understanding, antigen engineering, adjuvant and vector development, and combination immunotherapy are reshaping HBV vaccinology.** Therapeutic vaccines hold promise for restoring HBV-specific immunity and achieving functional cure—a long-sought goal. This Special Issue invites contributions from basic mechanisms to clinical innovation. Advancing preventive and **therapeutic vaccinology** is essential to reverse mortality trends and accelerate hepatitis B elimination.

### Guest Editors

Dr. Julio César Aguilar

Center for Genetic Engineering and Biotechnology (CIGB), Avenue 31,  
P.O. Box 6162, Havana 6 10 600, Cuba

Dr. Osamu Yoshida

Department of Gastroenterology and Metabolism, Ehime University  
Graduate School of Medicine, Toon City 791-0295, Ehime, Japan

### Deadline for manuscript submissions

31 March 2027



## Vaccines

an Open Access Journal  
by MDPI

Impact Factor 3.5  
CiteScore 7.7  
Indexed in PubMed



[mdpi.com/si/277701](https://mdpi.com/si/277701)

*Vaccines*  
Editorial Office  
MDPI, Grosspeteranlage 5  
4052 Basel, Switzerland  
Tel: +41 61 683 77 34  
[vaccines@mdpi.com](mailto:vaccines@mdpi.com)

[mdpi.com/journal/  
vaccines](https://mdpi.com/journal/vaccines)





# Vaccines

---

an Open Access Journal  
by MDPI

---

Impact Factor 3.5  
CiteScore 7.7  
Indexed in PubMed



[mdpi.com/journal/  
vaccines](https://mdpi.com/journal/vaccines)



## About the Journal

### 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.

---

### Editor-in-Chief

Prof. Dr. Ger Rijkers  
Department of Health, Cognition and Behavior, University College  
Roosevelt, 4331 CB Middelburg, The Netherlands

---

### Author Benefits

#### High Visibility:

indexed within Scopus, SCIE (Web of Science), PubMed, PMC, Embase, CAPLus / SciFinder, and other databases.

#### Journal Rank:

JCR - Q2 (Medicine, Research and Experimental) /  
CiteScore - Q1 (Infectious Diseases)

#### Rapid Publication:

manuscripts are peer-reviewed and a first decision is provided to authors approximately 17.5 days after submission; acceptance to publication is undertaken in 2.8 days (median values for papers published in this journal in the first half of 2026).