



# *viruses*

Dear Colleagues,

On behalf of the Evaluation Committee, we are pleased to announce that the winners of the *Viruses* 2022 Early Career Investigator Award are Dr. Nicholas Wu and Dr. Carolien van de Sandt.

Dr. Nicholas Wu completed his PhD at the University of California, Los Angeles, USA, and worked as a Postdoctoral Research Fellow at Scripps Research, USA. He is currently an Assistant Professor at the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign, USA, with a joint appointment at the Department of Biochemistry and the Carle Illinois College of Medicine. Dr. Wu is interested in studying the biophysical constraints of virus evolution and antibody-virus interaction, focusing on the influenza virus and SARS-CoV-2.

## **2022 EARLY CAREER INVESTIGATOR AWARD**

# WINNERS

Dr. Carolien van de Sandt completed her PhD at Erasmus University, Rotterdam, the Netherlands, where she studied the longevity, cross-reactivity, and immune evasion strategies of influenza-specific CD8<sup>+</sup> T-cells. She is currently a Senior Research Fellow at the University of Melbourne, Australia, where she leads the Aging Immunity Research Program. She also holds an honorary position at Sanquin, the Netherlands. Dr van de Sandt is interested in the mechanisms underlying the gain and loss of virus-specific CD8<sup>+</sup> T-cell function across the human lifespan and in high-risk groups. Her research is of great importance for the development of broadly protective vaccine strategies that aim to harness CD8<sup>+</sup> T-cells.

As the awardees, Dr. Nicholas Wu and Dr. Carolien van de Sandt will each receive an honorarium of CHF 1000, an offer to publish a paper free of charge before 31 December 2023 in *Viruses* following peer review, an invitation to speak at the *Viruses* international virology conference in 2024, and an engraved plaque.

We would like to thank all the nominators from various fields of study for their participation and all the Award Committee Members for their evaluation of the many excellent nominations.

*Viruses* 2022 Early Career Investigator Award Committee



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