Special Issue

Antiretroviral Drug Development and HIV Cure Research

Message from the Guest Editors

Human immunodeficiency virus type 1 (HIV-1) establishes a persistent infection that results in acquired immunodeficiency syndrome (AIDS) if left untreated. Around 37 million people in the world live with HIV-1, with around 2 million new infections each year. While combined antiretroviral therapy (ART) has been shown to be very effective, inhibiting HIV-1 replication and preventing the development of AIDS, it has to be administered life-long, exposing the patients to possible side-effects. In addition, increasing emergence of resistance to ARV drugs could challenge ART efficacy, especially considering the international effort to reach 40% of HIV-infected people that live in developing countries and are yet to receive treatment. Therefore, despite ART effectiveness, the generation of new drugs against novel targets or with more favorable pharmacokinetics profiles and the development of novel delivery systems has to continue.

Guest Editors

Prof. Dr. Enzo Tramontano

Department of Life and Environmental Sciences, University of Cagliari, Cittadella Universitaria di Monserrato SS554, Monserrato, 09042 Cagliari, Italy

Prof. Dr. Ben Berkhout

Laboratory of Experimental Virology, Department of Medical Microbiology, University of Amsterdam, Meibergdreef 15, 1105 AZ Amsterdam, The Netherlands

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Editorial Office
MDPI, Grosspeteranlage 5
4052 Basel, Switzerland
Tel: +41 61 683 77 34
viruses@mdpi.com

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Editor-in-Chief

Dr. Eric O. Freed
HIV Dynamics and Replication Program, Center for Cancer Research, National Cancer Institute, Frederick, MD 21702-1201, USA

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