Special Issue

Bacteriophages and Biofilms

Message from the Guest Editors

Biofilms are a community of surface-associated microorganisms embedded within a matrix of extracellular polymeric substances (EPS-extracellular polymeric substances) composed essentially of polysaccharides, eDNA, and proteins. These multicellular communities are characterised by the presence of different cell types in terms of physiology and phenotype. Persister cells are much more abundant in biofilms compared to planktonic culture; therefore, it is important to understand persister cells interactions with domesticated phages (prophages) as well as with lytic ones. Phages are actively involved in biofilm formation, in two different ways; as promoting or degrading agents. Phages can be equipped with matrixdegrading enzymes and effectively infect biofilmembedded cells. In this meaning, phages are a natural and helpful weapon against microbial biofilms. On the other hand, prophages regulate phage-mediated cell lysis and eDNA release, an important component of stabilizing the biofilm matrix.

Guest Editors

Prof. Dr. Zuzanna Drulis-Kawa

Department of Pathogen Biology and Immunology, Institute of Genetics and Microbiology, University of Wroclaw, 51-148 Wroclaw, Poland

Dr. Barbara Maciejewska

Department of Pathogen Biology and Immunology, Institute of Genetics and Microbiology, University of Wroclaw, Wroclaw, Poland

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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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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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