Special Issue

Dendritic Cells and Antiviral Defense

Message from the Guest Editors

Dendritic cells are key mediators of innate immunity and play an integral role in inducing adaptive immune responses to viruses. Specialized subsets of dendritic cells serve diverse functions, from capturing antigen in peripheral tissues and migrating to lymph nodes where they engage antigen-specific T cells, to producing copious quantities of type-I interferon in response to virus infection. Dendritic cell-based immunotherapy for viral infections is beginning to show promise following the implementation of this strategy to treat cancer. However, dendritic cells are also targets of immune evasion strategies by viruses and can serve as Trojan horses to facilitate virus spread in the host. In this review, we explore the varied contributions of this critical immune cell to antiviral immunity.

Guest Editors

Dr. Simon M. Barratt-Boyes
University of Pittsburgh, Pittsburgh, PA 15261, USA

Dr. Robbie B. Mailliard
Infectious Diseases and Microbiology, Graduate School of Public Health, University of Pittsburgh, Pittsburgh, PA 15261, USA

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

mdpi.com/journal/viruses

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Viruses (ISSN 1999-4915) is an open access journal which provides an advanced forum for studies of viruses. It publishes reviews, regular research papers, communications, conference reports and short notes. Our aim is to encourage scientists to publish their experimental and theoretical results in as much detail as possible. There is no restriction on the length of the papers. The full experimental details must be provided so that the results can be reproduced. We also encourage the publication of timely reviews and commentaries on topics of interest to the virology community and feature highlights from the virology literature in the 'News and Views' section.

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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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