Special Issue

Diversity and Evolution of Phage Genomes

Message from the Guest Editors

The increasing problem of multidrug-resistant bacteria has renewed interest in phages as biological control agents. Despite its enormous potential, phage therapy is far from being widely accepted. Medical doctors' and veterinarians' principal concerns about the use of phages are due to its viral nature and potential for dissemination of toxins and virulence determinants. Furthermore, bacterial resistance mechanisms may render phage therapy useless soon if not properly applied. While the microbiome is now dominating the headlines, it is clear that in every microbial environment, we will find at least an equivalent number of viral particles; however, our current understanding of viral diversity and its coding potential is still in its earliest development. As can be seen, both research areas converge on the need to characterize phage genomes and their insights into phage diversity and evolution. We aim to generate a collection of articles with recent advances in phage diversity and evolution through genomic sequencing that are paving the way for both basic and applied research in phage biology.

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Message from the Editor-in-Chief

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.

Electronic files or software regarding the full details of the calculation and experimental procedure, if unable to be published in a normal way, can be deposited as supplementary material.

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