

Special Issue

Recombination as An Evolutionary Force in Animal Viruses 2022

Message from the Guest Editor

Recombination has long been recognized as an important driver of evolution in viruses through the rapid creation of genetic diversity, particularly in those with RNA genomes. Such diversity is achieved through a non-reciprocal combination of genomic segments from at least two viruses that co-infect the same host cell. The new genomic architecture of the resulting recombinant virus can positively contribute to viral fitness and can successfully adapt to new environments and hosts. Indeed, recombination is frequently associated with the emergence of new viruses and outbreaks, expansion of the host range and species jump, changes in virulence and pathogenesis, alterations of tissue tropism, and the evasion of host immunity and antiviral resistance. This Special Issue of *Viruses* aims to gather a series of articles—original research and reviews—on recombination in RNA and DNA animal viruses, with an emphasis on recombination mechanisms, the evolutionary aspects of recombination, and recombination as a driver of virus emergence and species jump. Novel bioinformatic approaches to the detection and characterization of recombination events in animal viruses are also welcome.

Guest Editor

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