Special Issue

Viruses and Telomeres

Message from the Guest Editors

Viruses and telomeres share fundamental genetic and evolutionary properties. In many ways, the extension of telomeres resembles virus replication, and both share a clear evolutionary origin. It is therefore no surprise that many viruses have pirated components of telomeres and/or telomerase, including the telomeric repeats and telomerase RNA. Beyond that, viruses aquired the ability to modulate telomere maintenance and structure, including induction of telomerase activation or viral integration into host telomeres. In some cases, viruses and telomeres have a conflict of interest, with telomeres working to maintain host genome integrity and viruses seeking to be unleashed from these restraints. In other cases, viruses can take advantage of the telomere heterochromatin to establish latent or persistent infections in long-lived and dividing cells. How these interactions between viruses and host chromosomes are regulated and lead to pathogenesis is the subject of this volume. Prof. Paul M. Lieberman

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