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Functional and Structural Features of Viral RNA Elements

Guest Editor:

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Message from the Guest Editor

Dear Colleagues,

The outcome of viral infections including evasion from the immune system and pathogenicity can be regulated by multiple post-transcriptional mechanisms such as splicing, mRNA stability, mRNA export, translation initiation and mRNA modification or editing. The corresponding viral RNA sequences must therefore provide the structural and sequence determinants required for this process. Well-characterized examples are the internal ribosome entry site (IRES), for cap-independent protein translation first identified in Picornaviruses, or the RRE element required for the efficient export of HIV mRNAs.

The current Special Issue addresses recent advances in unraveling the structural motifs contributing to the functionality of such viral cis-regulatory RNA sequences and the molecular mechanisms and host factors involved their mode of action. It further aims at a better understanding of the evolution of these regulatory elements for facilitating the prediction of sequences with similar functions in other viral genomes.

Dr. Stefan Weger
Guest Editor

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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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