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# Evolution, Composition and Regulation of Supernumerary B Chromosomes

Guest Editors:

Prof. Neil Jones

**Prof. Cesar Martins** 

Dr. Vladimir Trifonov

Deadline for manuscript

closed (31 August 2018)

submissions.

Prof. Andreas Houben

### **Message from the Guest Editors**

Supernumerary B chromosomes are dispensable genetic elements found in many plants, animals, and fungi. Since their discovery, they have been a source of puzzlement, as they occur in some members of a population and are absent from others. When they do occur, they are often harmful, and there appears to be no obvious reasons for their existence. Cytogeneticists have long wrestled with questions about the biological existence of these enigmatic B chromosomes, including their lack of any adaptive properties, apparent absence of functional genes, their origin, sequence organization and co-evolution as nuclear parasites. Emerging technologies are now enabling researchers to step up a gear, to look beyond the previous limits of the horizon, and to uncover the secrets of these 'silent' elements. Investigations their into DNA composition, transcriptional activity and effects on the host transcriptome profile are beginning to uncover new information. Contributing authors come from a wide range of species, and different systems, and their thematic output will give a broad view and a step forward to understanding this perplexing biological story.









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#### Prof. Dr. Selvarangan Ponnazhagan

Department of Pathology, The University of Alabama at Birmingham, 1825 University Blvd, SHEL 814, Birmingham, AL 35294-2182, USA

### Message from the Editor-in-Chief

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*Genes* Editorial Office MDPI, Grosspeteranlage 5 4052 Basel, Switzerland Tel: +41 61 683 77 34 www.mdpi.com mdpi.com/journal/genes genes@mdpi.com X@Genes\_MDPI