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Functional Otogenetics

Guest Editors:

Dr. Vedat Topsakal
Department of Otorhinolaryngology Head and Neck Surgery, Universitair Ziekenhuis Brussel-Vrije Universiteit Brussel, 1090 Jette, Brussels Health Campus, Brussels, Belgium

Dr. Ronald J.E. Pennings
Department of Otorhinolaryngology, Radboud University Nijmegen Medical Centre, 6500 HB Nijmegen, Nijmegen, The Netherlands

Dr. Cris Lanting
Department of Otorhinolaryngology, Radboud University Nijmegen Medical Centre, Philips van Leijdenlaan 15, 6525 EX Nijmegen, The Netherlands

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Message from the Guest Editors

Genetic analyses became more efficient and more available (cheaper) with the development of population genetics, gene panels, next-genome screening and eventually whole-genome sequencing. Progressively, a gap between scientific knowledge on genetic deafness and the clinical application of that knowledge occurred. A handful of clinical scientists tried to bridge this gap by emphasising the importance of genotype phenotype correlations studies.

Today, genetic analyses are readily available and so powerful that some would dare to perform otogenetic screenings prior to proper clinical evaluation of hearing thresholds. However, genetic analyses frequently find anomalies or variants which are difficult to classify as pathogenic, or not.

Translational studies concerning genetic knowledge implemented in daily practice are welcomed. We also hope to address the following questions: What do genes tell clinicians on how or when to operate or not to operate? Should clinicians anticipate the presence of gene therapy in the near future? All topics that are functional for clinicians and tackle genetics and otology are welcome for this issue on functional otogenetics.

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Editor-in-Chief

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

Genes are central to our understanding of biology, and modern advances such as genomics and genome editing have maintained genetics as a vibrant, diverse and fastmoving field. There is a need for good quality, open access journals in this area, and the *Genes* team aims to provide expert manuscript handling, serious peer review, and rapid publication across the whole discipline of genetics. Starting in 2010, the journal is now well established and recognised.

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Contact Us

Genes Editorial Office
MDPI, Grosspeteranlage 5
4052 Basel, Switzerland

Tel: +41 61 683 77 34
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mdpi.com/journal/genes
genes@mdpi.com
𝕏@Genes_MDPI