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Investigation of the Importance of Non-B DNA Structures at the Interface between Chemistry and Biology

Guest Editors:

Dr. Emanuela Ruggiero

Department of Molecular
Medicine, University of Padova,
35121 Padova, Italy

Dr. Marco Di Antonio

1. Department of Chemistry,
MSRH, Imperial College London,
London SW12 0BX, UK
2. The Francis Crick Institute,
London NW1 1AT, UK

Dr. Samantha Kendrick

Department of Biochemistry and
Molecular Biology, University of
Arkansas for Medical Sciences,
Little Rock, AR 72205, USA

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Message from the Guest Editors

DNA is a very polymorphic macromolecule, the folding of which extends far beyond the double helix. Sequences with high propensity to form non-canonical structures are particularly enriched in disease-related human genes, as well as in the genome of various microorganisms. This observation suggests a potential role of non-B DNA in the onset of several human diseases, including cancer, neurodegenerative disorders, and infectious diseases. Recent studies addressing the role of DNA secondary structures have mainly focused on tetraplex structures, such as G-quadruplexes and i-motifs, corroborating the potential of these structures as innovative targets for therapeutic intervention. Interesting evidence also hints at a potential biological role for triplexes, hairpins, and cruciform structures. Consequently, interest in studying non-canonical DNA structures has significantly expanded in recent years, engaging research spanning from synthetic chemistry to cell biology. This Special Issue aims to gather experts in the field of non-B DNA to cover different facets of non-canonical nucleic acid structures and recent advances in this area at the interface between chemistry and biology.



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Special Issue



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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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Genes Editorial Office
MDPI, Grosspeteranlage 5
4052 Basel, Switzerland

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