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Endogenous Retroviruses: Functions at Molecular Level

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Message from the Guest Editor

Endogenous retrovirus genes have become inserted in the human genome for more than one million years. These retroviruses are now inactivated due to mutations, such as deletions or nonsense mutations. After mutation, retroviruses eventually become fixed in the genome in their endogenous form and exist as traces of ancient viruses. Recent studies have shown that these ancient traces of retrovirus still play important roles related to normal physiological function and certain diseases, including cancer. Moreover, endogenous retroviruses regulate host immune systems and interact with active exogenous viruses. In this Special Issue, studies of not only disease-related functions, but also normal physiological functions of endogenous viruses, will be addressed at the molecular level

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Message from the Editor-in-Chief

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