



## Molecular Mechanisms of Viroids and Viroid Diseases

Guest Editor:

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Deadline for manuscript  
submissions:  
**closed (31 August 2020)**

### Message from the Guest Editor

Dear Colleagues,

Viroid is the smallest pathogen consisting of a circular single-stranded RNA of ~250–400 nucleotides. Despite its nature of non-coding RNA, once it has entered a host cell, viroid replicates relying on the host transcription machinery and spreads from the infected cells throughout the plant, causing virtually asymptomatic to very severe disease symptoms.

Such biological functions of viroids are generated by direct and indirect interactions between molecular elements embedded in the highly structured viroid RNA or viroid-derived small RNAs produced by RNA silencing targeting the viroid and host factors involved in the regulation of defense or development.

In this Special Issue, we will focus on the latest information on the molecular functions of viroids and on viroid diseases and call for submission of manuscripts on the molecular factors in viroid RNA that control replication, transport, transmission or pathogenicity, on the impact of viroid infection on the host transcriptome or metabolome, and on host genes, microRNAs, transcription factors, etc. that are involved in the development of specific viroid diseases.



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Dr. Teruo Sano  
Guest Editor

**Special** Issue



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## Message from the Editor-in-Chief

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