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Recent Advances in the Clinical Outcome of Chronic Hepatitis B Patients

Guest Editor:

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Message from the Guest Editor

During the past several decades we have witnessed major progress in all areas of hepatitis B virus (HBV) biology, including replication, pathobiology and antiviral therapy. Investigations on viral DNA replication have uncovered covalently closed circular DNA (cccDNA) amplification as the mechanism for HBV persistence. Studies in animal models have demonstrated that viral clearance is associated with a strong cytotoxic T-cell response that can destroy infected hepatocytes. Nucleos(t)ide analogues block viral replication, but they cannot cure chronic HBV infections and prevent the development of hepatocellular carcinoma.

The ultimate goals of this Special Issue are not only to obtain a more precise understanding of the HBV life cycle, but also to acquire an understanding that will lead to more effective treatments and pathogenic process. Furthermore, another ambitious aim of this Issue is to explore the significant clinical role of HBV infection in relevance with the current public health problems and new medical needs.