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From Drug Carriers to Vaccine Adjuvants in Malaria

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Message from the Guest Editors

Despite the undeniable importance of malaria elimination on the global research agenda, current vaccines in development do not offer prospects of complete protection, and the available front-line drugs are rapidly losing efficacy, with resistance already evolved to the first-line drug artemisinin. As a result, since 2014 the malaria incidence and mortality decline have stalled. Thus, alternative strategies working through radically new mechanisms are urgently needed.

Because malaria pathophysiology is so complex, and the disease is so widespread, it is generally accepted that to achieve eradication a combination of weapons will be needed. These include the improvement of existing approaches and the development of new ones, with drug therapy and vaccination remaining the mainstays of treatment and prevention, and pharmaceutical nanotechnology being a potentially essential tool in the future fight against malaria. Encapsulation of drugs in targeted nanovectors is a rapidly growing area with clear applicability to infectious disease treatment, and malaria vaccine adjuvants based on antigen binding to nanoparticles will be an essential asset for future prophylactic strategies.

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Message from the Editor-in-Chief

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