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New Challenges for Natural and Vaccine-Induced Immunity against HBV Infection

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Deadline for manuscript submissions:
closed (30 June 2022)

Message from the Guest Editors

The availability of an effective vaccine against hepatitis B infection has produced a strong decline in the number of new cases of HBV-related hepatitis worldwide.

It is worth noting that, despite the overall high efficacy of anti-HBV vaccination, a non-negligible (but not well-defined) ratio of persons are "non-responders" to the vaccine, failing to achieve a protective concentration of antibodies able to prevent HBV infection.

Another potential pitfall of HBV vaccination, and more generally of immune control of HBV, is related to the circulation of viral strains, carrying mutations in the surface antigen (HBsAg), that have been demonstrated to alter the affinity of antibodies, both naturally produced by the immune system and induced by vaccination.

For this Special Issue, we welcome all original research papers, reviews, clinical cases, and methodological novelties able to shed new light on the immune response to HBV infection, including that induced by anti-HBV vaccination, and on the role of HBV genetic variability in modifying the ability of the immune system and vaccination to prevent/control HBV infection.

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Message from the Editor-in-Chief

Vaccines (ISSN 2076-393X), founded in 2013, now has a firm history of publishing peer-reviewed, state-of-the-art research papers on vaccines and vaccination in the broadest sense. Areas covered include, but are not limited to, novel and emerging vaccine technologies, building on in-depth knowledge of what constitutes a protective immune response. These can be new vaccines for old diseases, or old vaccines for new diseases. Vaccines against cancer and autoimmune diseases explicitly are also within the scope of the journal. Because public opinion and even government policies towards vaccines and vaccination have changed, vaccine policy and public health issues are major concerns. Climate change will also have an impact on the spread of infectious diseases, and thus also on vaccine and vaccination policies worldwide.

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