



## COVID-19 Vaccines: From Immune Escape to Neutralizing Antibody-Based Therapeutics to Sterilizing Immunity

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### Message from the Guest Editor

The COVID-19 pandemic has been largely contained thanks to massive deployment of anti-spike vaccines. Different technologies have been in place, but none of them has been convincingly able to induce sterilizing mucosal immunity. Transmission of infection from vaccines to nonresponding immunosuppressed patients at risk for severe COVID-19 demands the development of next-generation mucosal vaccines able to induce sterilizing immunity. Mucosal vaccines come with additional benefits, such as oral route, home self-administration, and no need for needles or refrigeration chains. These manufacturing efforts are nevertheless halted by the ongoing evolution of the spike protein. Clinical experiences with neutralizing antibody-based therapeutics (i.e., anti-RBD monoclonal antibodies and convalescent plasma) have largely contributed to identifying the critical residues within the spike proteins which should be monitored for vaccine resistance.





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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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