



Viruses and Endothelial Dysfunction

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Message from the Guest Editor

The introduction of cART, has considerably decreased the viral burden and opportunistic infections and increased the life expectancy in HIV⁺-infected people. Conversely, HIV⁺ individuals develop a greater vulnerability to non-AIDS-related complications. In particular, HIV⁺ patients have a higher risk of developing endothelial dysfunction, which may occur in both the absence and presence of suppressive cART. HIV-1-encoded proteins are expressed in HIV⁺ individuals, even in the absence of viral replication, and are able to induce strong changes in endothelial cell (EC) physiology and morphology, to induce direct EC damage and to develop an inflammatory microenvironment. As a consequence, viral proteins may represent some of the essential factors involved in the development of endothelial disorders in AIDS. Understanding the key role of some HIV-1 protein in sustaining EC aberrant functioning may help in identifying new therapeutic approaches for combating and preventing HIV-1-related vascular diseases.

All researchers working in the field are cordially invited to contribute original research papers or propose reviews to feature in this Special Issue.





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Message from the Editor-in-Chief

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