Foreword

For reprint orders, please contact: reprints@futuremedicine.com

Welcome to the 13th volume of *Future Microbiology*

Alice Greenway^{*,1}

¹Future Science Group, Unitec House, 2 Albert Place, London N3 1QB, UK

* Author for correspondence: a.greenway@futuremedicine.com

Published online: 13 December 2017

Keywords: diagnostics • HIV • infection • microbiology • microbiota

To all of our readers, the Future Medicine editorial office would like to wish you a happy new year and introduce you to the 13th volume of *Future Microbiology*.

I would like to start the year by thanking our readers, esteemed editorial board, peer reviewers and contributing authors for their continued support. We very much look forward to working with you all in 2018 and seeing the journal continue to progress. In this foreword, we will present some highlights from the last 12 months in addition to looking forward to the year ahead.

Content highlights

In 2017, *Future Microbiology* had another great year. The journal published a large number of superb articles, comprising a broad spread of content representing the ever-evolving field of microbiology.

Future Microbiology's top read article of 2017 (as of October 2017) was an editorial entitled 'How can the gut microbiota affect immune recovery in HIV infected individuals?' written by Sergio Serrano-Villar *et al.* [1]. This short opinion piece outlines the current advances in untangling the host–microbiota interactions influencing immune recovery during HIV infection. The ever-expanding field of the microbiome has opened new avenues in our understanding of the pathogenesis of HIV and we encourage any submissions exploring this topic in the future.

Our second-most-read article was a review that described the main features, pathogenesis and epidemiology of typical and atypical exanthems caused by all types of infection, that being bacterial, viral, helminthic and parasitic [2]. Written by Francesco Drago *et al.*, this article proposed quick etiological diagnostic guidelines which can ensure timely and appropriate treatment.

Another article which proved very popular with our readers was an intriguing editorial piece entitled 'Mobile phones create new opportunities for microbiology research and clinical applications' [3]. The paper, written by Hatice Koydemir and Aydogan Ozcan (both University of California, CA, USA) investigates the capabilities of mobile phone-based imaging and sensing platforms as a toolset for microbiology research. With smart phone technology forever growing, together with their cost-effectiveness and wide-spread availability, this article explains how mobile phones could transform diagnostics in our homes and in resource-poor settings.

An original research article authored by Emma Bagshaw *et al.* also attracted a great deal of attention. It assessed the cost of treating mucormycosis, a fungal infection associated with high mortality [4]. The researchers from Covance Inc (London, UK) were part of an international collaboration that demonstrated the cost-effectiveness of a new antifungal drug, isavuconazole, when compared with standard mucormycosis therapy treatments in the UK.

Readership demographics

It is always interesting to consider the impact of our content, and as the journal grows, our readership demographic also changes. This year we saw an increase in the proportion of readership in the USA, expanding from 22% last year to 36% in 2017. Our content was mostly read by experts in the USA (36%), Europe (29%) and Asia (23%; Figure 1). While our content continues to have an impact across Europe and the West, we expect to see continued growth in emerging scientific communities and hope to continue our work toward reaching a truly globalized audience.

Figure 1. *Future Microbiology* readership demographics 2017.

Top altmetric articles

We have been working with altmetric since 2015 to help visualize where the articles we publish are having online impact. A special acknowledgement goes out to this year's top three articles, which all scored in the top 25% of all research outputs scored by altmetric:

- First was a review entitled 'Cutaneous wound biofilm and the potential for electrical stimulation in management of the microbiome' written by Mohammed Ashrafi *et al.* [5];
- Second, was our aforementioned most read article of 2017, 'How can the gut microbiota affect immune recovery in HIV-infected individuals?' [1];
- In third place was a very topical editorial entitled 'Daptomycin: new insights into an antibiotic of last resort' [6];

Social media

Future Microbiology remains active across social media and you can follow our latest updates on Twitter (@fsgfmb) and LinkedIn [7]. Across these platforms, we discuss the most recent research in the field of microbiology, and the latest news, journal highlights and newly published articles. Through these mediums, we continue to enjoy engaging with our readers and experts in the field.

Infectious Diseases Hub

Future Microbiology is proud to work alongside Infectious Diseases Hub [8], a free-access online resource that aims to provide up-to-date, essential research and information on all aspects of virology and microbiology, from the bench to the bedside. Infectious Diseases Hub offers easy access to breaking news, exclusive features, interviews and peer-reviewed articles, provided by Future Science Group [9]. This partnership allows *Future Microbiology* to share content across multiple platforms in order to drive our influence in the field of infectious disease. Every month, three articles from the current issue are nominated to feature on infectious disease hub, at the discretion of the editor.

An article from *Future Microbiology* of particular interest to Infectious Diseases Hub members in 2017 was a review paper entitled 'Diagnostics and susceptibility testing in *Aspergillus*' [10] and which is consistently one of the website's top-viewed pages [11]. This article highlights the novelties of emerging diagnostic procedures for the detection of antifungal resistance in *Aspergillus* spp. The article has received impressive exposure through both the

journal website and via Infectious Diseases Hub. This enhanced coverage is one of the many benefits authors receive when publishing their work in *Future Microbiology*.

Conclusion

As always, we welcome any feedback the microbiology community wishes to share, whether that be key topics that you feel should be covered or where you see the field going in the future. We welcome unsolicited research, review and opinion article proposals and would be delighted to hear from you if you are interested in submitting to the journal. In particular, we are looking for submissions surrounding key areas such as:

- The molecular basis of microbial diseases;
- Host–microbe interactions;
- Overviews highlighting optimal therapeutic and diagnostic approaches, along with potential future options;
- The use of microbes in the treatment of disease and genetic engineering;
- Summaries evaluating newly approved antimicrobial agents;
- Pharmacoeconomics and cost–benefit issues in microbiology;
- New and re-emerging microbes impacting human health;
- Microbial genome research and the implications to higher organisms;
- Microbes and cancer;
- Epidemiologic studies and trends;
- The problem of drug resistance and potential methods to overcome this;
- Defense against the use of microbes in bioterrorism;
- Real-world evidence and outcomes research.

We greatly look forward to collaborating with you over the coming year and hope to see *Future Microbiology* continue to grow and impact the scientific community in 2018.

Financial & competing interests disclosure

The author has no relevant affiliations or financial involvement with any organization or entity with a financial interest in or financial conflict with the subject matter or materials discussed in the manuscript. This includes employment, consultancies, honoraria, stock ownership or options, expert testimony, grants or patents received or pending, or royalties.

No writing assistance was utilized in the production of this manuscript.

References

1. Serrano-Villar S, Ferrer M, Gosalbes MJ, Moreno S. How can the gut microbiota affect immune recovery in HIV-infected individuals? *Future Microbiol.* 12(3), 195–199 (2017).
2. Drago F, Ciccarese G, Gasparini G *et al.* Contemporary infectious exanthems: an update. *Future Microbiol.* 12(2), 171–193 (2017).
3. Koydemir HC, Ozcan A. Mobile phones create new opportunities for microbiology research and clinical applications. *Future Microbiol.* 12(8), 641–644 (2017).
4. Bagshaw E, Kuessner D, Posthumus J *et al.* The cost of treating mucormycosis with isavuconazole compared with standard therapy in the UK. *Future Microbiol.* 12(6), 515–525 (2017).
5. Ashrafi M, Baguneid M, Alonso-Rasgado T, Rautemaa-Richardson R, Bayat A. Cutaneous wound biofilm and the potential for electrical stimulation in management of the microbiome. *Future Microbiol.* 12(4), 337–357 (2017).
6. Pader V, Edwards AM. Daptomycin: new insights into an antibiotic of last resort. *Future Microbiol.* 12(6), 461–464 (2017).
7. LinkedIn group: Future Science Group microbiology. www.linkedin.com/groups/8506116
8. Infectious Diseases Hub. www.id-hub.com
9. Future Science Group. www.future-science-group.com/
10. Bernal-Martínez L, Alastruey-Izquierdo A, Cuenca-Estrella M. Diagnostics and susceptibility testing in *Aspergillus*. *Future Microbiol.* 11(2), 315–328 (2016).
11. Infectious Diseases Hub. Diagnostics and susceptibility testing in *Aspergillus* (2016). www.id-hub.com/2017/02/24/diagnostics-susceptibility-testing-aspergillus/