Foreword

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Welcome to the 13th volume of *Future Virology*

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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 Virology*.

We 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 Virology* had another great year. The journal published a large number of superb articles which as usual, contained a broad spread of content representing the ever-evolving field of virology.

At the time of writing (October 2017), *Future Virology*'s most read article of 2017 was a review article authored by Justin Maroun *et al.*, which explored the potential of oncolytic viruses (OVs) to revolutionize the paradigm of cancer care [1]. OVs are a new class of drugs in our armory against cancer that are gaining momentum due to their high potency, specificity and safety when compared with their famously toxic alternatives. The paper outlines virus engineering strategies to optimize delivery and accelerate intratumoral spread, which not only kills virus-infected cells but also increases the anticancer immune response. The ever-expanding field of OVs has opened new avenues in the treatment of cancer and we encourage any submissions exploring this topic in the future.

Our second most read article was a special report entitled ‘Recombinase polymerase amplification: a promising point-of-care detection method for enteric viruses’ written by Matthew Moore and Lee-Ann Jaykus (both North Carolina State University, NC, USA) [2]. Viral enteric diseases are highly transmissible and resistant to many prevention strategies, making early detection an important point of care. This paper reports the enhanced virus detection capabilities of a recombinase polymerase amplification method when compared with the traditional ligand-based detection strategies.

Another article published in 2017 which proved popular with our readers was a short opinion piece authored by Sophie Schumann and Adrian Whitehouse (both University of Leeds, UK). Human herpes viruses utilize multiple components of human TREX, a large cellular multiprotein complex, to stabilize and export viral mRNA. This editorial entitled ‘Targeting the human TREX complex to prevent herpesvirus replication: what is new?’ [3] introduces the reader to a novel inhibitor of hTREX. The paper demonstrates the ability of the inhibitor to prevent lytic replication of the virus and potentially evolve into a new generation of antiherpes drugs.

The last to be mentioned is an editorial article authored by Daniele Dionisio (European Parliament Working Group on Innovation). The paper outlines the initiatives taken by two organizations: Drugs for Neglected Diseases and Medicines Patent Pool in efforts to support WHO and eradicate hepatitis C [4]. The piece concludes with a discussion on how collaborations between pharmaceutical companies and the aforementioned organizations could lead to the worldwide roll-out of affordable pan-genotypic regimens of direct-acting antivirals.

Figure 1. *Future Virology* readership demographics 2017.

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 Asia, expanding from 18 to 27% in 2017. Our content was most read by experts in Europe (31%) and the USA (30%) (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, particularly in areas afflicted by viral outbreaks. We hope to continue our work toward reaching a truly globalized audience.

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 scoring articles in *Future Virology*:

- Our top scoring article was an original research paper entitled 'Clinical complications of antiretroviral therapy in HIV/TB patients in referral hospital, China' [5] which was in the top 5% of all research outputs scored by Altmetric.
- Next was a second primary research article entitled 'Factors influencing mothers' decision to enroll their HIV-negative children in a hypothetical HIV vaccine trial' [6].
- At last, a perspective article entitled 'Virulence determinants of West Nile virus: how can these be used for vaccine design?' [7] rounds out the top three.

Social media

Future Virology remains active across the social media and you can follow our latest updates on Twitter (@fsgfvl) and LinkedIn [8]. Across these platforms, we discuss the most recent research in the virology field, 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.

Editorial board

Unfortunately in 2017, *Future Virology* lost its long-standing senior editor, Mark Wainberg, who passed away in rather tragic circumstances earlier this year. Dr Mark Wainberg was a Canadian microbiologist who dedicated his life to HIV/AIDS research and became a leading activist in the fight for giving millions of individuals living with

HIV/AIDS in Africa greater access to antiretroviral drugs. Mark had worked alongside the journal for many years and his brilliant insight and guidance will be truly missed.

Infectious Diseases Hub

Future Virology is proud to work alongside Infectious Diseases Hub [9], 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 [10]. This partnership allows *Future Virology* 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.

Conclusion

As always, we welcome any feedback the virology community wishes to share, whether that be on 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 viral diseases
- Virus–host interactions
- New and re-emerging viruses
- Epidemiologic studies and trends
- Advances in oncolytic viral therapy, viral gene therapy and viral immunotherapy
- Vaccines and antiviral agents
- Adverse events and drug safety
- The problem of viral drug resistance, and potential methods to overcome this
- Pharmacoeconomics and cost–benefit issues in virology
- The use of viral vectors in gene therapy and functional genomics
- Defense against the use of viruses in bioterrorism
- Real world evidence and outcomes research

We greatly look forward to collaborating with you all over the coming year and hope to see *Future Virology* 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.

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