EXTRA-CELLULAR FACTORS AS NEW ANTI-HIV THERAPEUTIC TARGETS

Aims & Scope:

The aim of this issue is highlighting extracellular HIV proteins which are expected to be released also under HAART treatment as new therapeutic targets. These viral products comprise Env gp120, Tat, Nef, and, at least in patients becoming resistant to PIs, Gag MAp17. In addition, the studies on the immune dysregulation induced by HIV led to the identification of cellular soluble factors significantly contributing to AIDS pathogenesis, e.g., TNFα, CCL2, ADAM17, and ligands of NKG2D. These molecules can be evaluated as additional therapeutic targets. Furthermore, considering that the virological synapses play a key role in viral spread and transmission, also their structural components would be considered convenient targets for new anti-HIV interventions. Therapeutic strategies aimed at targeting extracellular viral and cellular factors involved in AIDS pathogenesis represent a yet largely unexplored way to contain the overall negative effects on the immune system still present in HAART-treated HIV-infected patients.

Keywords:

HIV, AIDS, immune dysregulation, HIV regulatory proteins, HIV structural proteins, inflammatory factors.

Subtopics:

1. HIV-1 Gag MAp17
2. HIV Env gp120
3. HIV-1 Tat
4. Virological synapses
5. CCL2
6. TNFalpha
7. NKG2D ligands
8. HIIV-1 Nef and ADAM17

Schedule:

Manuscript submission deadline: January 2015
Peer Review Due: February 2015
Revision Due: March 2015
Notification of acceptance by the Guest Editor: March 2015
Final manuscripts due: March 2015