

Human Vaccines

A home for policy

Eva Maria Riedmann

Acquisitions Editor; Landes Bioscience; Vienna, Austria

Human Vaccines has come a long way since its launch in 2005. The journal is well established in the vaccine community, which is reflected by a steady increase in submissions of high-quality research articles as well as timely reviews and commentaries. In addition we publish special features, such as book reviews, portraits and meeting reports. The transition to monthly publication earlier this year has been a great success for *Human Vaccines*, which is published in a format that is accessible to a wide international audience in the academic, industrial and public sectors.

Over the past few years *Human Vaccines* has developed a strong scientific focus. Topics go beyond vaccine research, development and clinical trials for the prevention of classical human infectious diseases. In this regard, *Human Vaccines* also includes experimental vaccines for immunotherapeutic purposes and for applications outside of infectious diseases, in diverse fields such as cancer, autoimmunity, allergy, Alzheimer and addiction.

Developing a vaccine is not an easy task. Besides the obvious difficulties presented by the biology of a particular microbe and numerous technical challenges, there are other obstacles to overcome, such as public health, regulatory and policy issues. These “other” issues have not been actively discussed in our journal, a fact that is about to change.

With the introduction of a monthly **News & Policy** section in *Human Vaccines*, we would like to open a forum for discussion of regulatory and commercial issues, product availability and safety, cost-effectiveness, public health, patient compliance and vaccination policy. *Human Vaccines* is the only journal to focus exclusively on vaccines for human use, and regulatory and policy issues are irrefutably important factors in human vaccine development. Expanding on these issues is the next logical step in further increasing the reach of *Human Vaccines* and its importance in the field. The commentaries and perspectives published in this track will be written by distinguished experts in the field of vaccinology and public health, who agree to share their view and opinion on timely developments in this area.

News-oriented editorial content complements the policy-related opinion pieces. News topics include the latest developments in the world of vaccines in all segments from research to clinical to public health, biotech and industry, and in addition report on relevant events and awards.

The introduction of this new feature in *Human Vaccines* is both timely and important. We welcome your contributing articles to this feature in order that your viewpoint can become known. We look forward to lively debates and fresh perspectives on the leading vaccine issues.

Please contact me if you would like to contribute to this important new section of *Human Vaccines*.

*Correspondence to: Eva M Riedmann; Email: eva@landesbioscience.com
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