

Letter from the Editor

Ronald Ellis^{1,*} and Eva M. Riedmann²

¹Senior Vice President R&D and Chief Technology Officer; NasVax, Ltd.; Ness Ziona, Israel; ²Acquisitions Editor; Landes Bioscience; Vienna, Austria

Dear Reader,

The Journal Citation Report (JCR) for 2011 has been released. We are pleased to announce that the 2011 Impact Factor for *Human Vaccines & Immunotherapeutics (HV&I)* is 3.58. This significant improvement (2010 IF: 2.04) reflects very well the steady increase in content and quality over the past years. While the IF is subject to various critiques, it is a widely accepted measure for the relative stature of a journal within its field, and we are pleased to see that *HV&I* is well established in the fields of Vaccinology and Immunotherapeutics. We hope that our competitive IF, combined with our flexible open access model and rapid turnaround time from submission to peer review, will help to attract even more high-quality submissions in the future.

We want to remind you that HV&I has recently lowered its open access (OA) fees significantly. The cost to make an original research paper OA is \$750. For all other types of papers, the OA fee is \$500. With this step we want to acknowledge that many scientists wish for free access to and distribution of published articles.

Vaccine research and development is no longer restricted to the prevention of bacterial or viral diseases. Many different experimental vaccines are being developed for immunotherapeutic purposes. Cancer vaccine development represents a particularly interesting and active field, and is the focus of a series of commentaries in the current issue. Dr Michael G Hanna, founder and chairman of Vaccinogen (Frederick, MD USA), and Dr. Alex Kudrin, Consultant in Pharmaceutical Medicine (London, UK), have agreed to serve as Guest-Editors and contributors for this series extending to our September issue. In the current issue you find the first group of commentaries on **Phenotypic and antigenic heterogeneity of cancer, technology platforms for products, and lessons learned for cancer vaccines and immunotherapeutics**. Selected experts, in addition to the Guest Editors, were invited to share their experience in the field of cancer vaccine development in a commentary as part of this Special Focus: David Berd (DB Consultants; Wyncote, PA, USA), Mike Cusnir (Mount Sinai Comprehensive Cancer Center; Miami Beach, FL, USA), Isaiah Fidler (University of Texas MD Anderson Cancer Center, Houston, TX, USA), and Dirk Reitsma and Austin Combest (PPD, Wilmington, NC, USA). Look for our September issue, which will feature a further series of commentaries on **Global regulatory challenges in development and approval of cancer vaccines and immunotherapeutics** as well as on **Commercial and reimbursement challenges with cancer vaccines and immunotherapeutics**.

In the current issue we are pleased to feature the portrait of Dr Akseli Hemminki, Group Leader of the Cancer Gene Therapy Group at the University of Helsinki (Finland). In his essay Dr Hemminki writes about his professional career and research at the world-class Cancer Gene Therapy Group that was also the basis for his co-founding the biotech company Oncos Therapeutics. This company is dedicated to developing novel cancer immunotherapies. Your suggestions for future portrait candidates are always welcome. Please contact the Acquisitions Editor Eva Riedmann (eva@landesbioscience.com) with your ideas.

As usual, we provide you with a selection of the latest news in the field of vaccines and immunotherapeutics in our monthly **News, Policy and Profiles (NPP)** section. In this section we also regularly publish opinion pieces on timely, interesting or controversial topics in the field of vaccines and immunotherapy, and we publish Profiles of companies and organizations active in these areas. If you would like to contribute to our NPP section, please contact the Acquisitions Editor with your suggestions.

Finally, we are pleased to offer several popular web site features to our readers: With our iPad application you can read the full issue of *HV&I* anywhere, just as you would the print issue. Subscribe to our RSS feed to see the latest published papers and "Like" us on facebook for daily updates.

Sincerely,

Ronald Ellis PhD
Editor-in-Chief

Eva M. Riedmann PhD
Acquisitions Editor

*Correspondence to: Ronald Ellis; Email: rellis@landesbioscience.com
Submitted: 07/22/12; Accepted: 07/22/12
<http://dx.doi.org/10.4161/hv.21698>