

Guest Editorial

Reviews in neurovirology: An introduction

Peter GE Kennedy



Peter GE Kennedy, Guest Editor

In early 2002, the Editor-in-Chief of the *Journal of NeuroVirology* (JNV) conceived of an idea for an annual special issue of the Journal, which would contain several concise and up-to-date review articles, covering a range of neurovirological topics likely to be of interest to our readers. The field is developing rapidly, making the publication of a volume of this kind both timely and useful. I was honored and delighted to be invited to serve as Guest Editor for the first release of *Reviews in NeuroVirology*. I anticipate that this annual issue will be a successful and welcomed annual feature for the Journal.

When available Journal space is dedicated to a special issue, the task of selecting topics with appeal to a wide audience is challenging. In this inaugural issue, it seemed timely and fitting to cover a range of subjects that broadly represent the type of articles published in the Journal since its inception. In analyzing the articles published in JNV from 2000 to 2002, I was struck by the remarkable diversity of areas in neu-

rovirology covered. The Journal, indeed, holds firm to an early remit to publish articles representing research on a broad range of topics in this focused area of investigation.

The articles in this volume were designed to give both concise overviews of the subject while emphasizing important recent developments in the field. It is perhaps not surprising that human immunodeficiency virus (HIV)-related articles comprised the largest number published since 2000, and this is reflected by the inclusion here of two articles on HIV in the nervous system, one covering clinical aspects and the other focusing more on the neuropathogenic aspects of HIV-induced neurological disease. Although some of the articles cover quite broad areas such as virus-induced demyelination, viral vectors for gene therapy, viruses and brain tumors, emerging viral infections of the nervous system, and herpesvirus latency, others are more specific in their remit, e.g., human T-cell lymphotropic virus type 1 (HTLV-1), measles, progressive multifocal leukoencephalopathy (PML), rabies, Japanese encephalitis, Borna disease virus, and prion disease. Topics not included in this issue, such as virus-associated apoptosis, cytokines and chemokines, central nervous system (CNS) immune responses to viruses, more specific areas of influenza, simian immunodeficiency virus, murine leukemia viruses, and a detailed coverage of coronaviruses, will no doubt be considered for inclusion in future issues.

An interesting feature that can be discerned in this volume is the frequent crossover of particular viruses. For example, JC virus is the topic of one of the review articles, yet it is mentioned in the article on brain tumors and also discussed in the demyelination articles. In both the latency and viral vector articles, the role of herpes simplex virus (HSV) is examined; and although measles is the focus of a review article, it is also considered in the article on demyelination. Although such crossover is probably inevitable in a volume containing both specific and general articles, some effort has been made to emphasize different aspects of the viruses in the related articles. On a personal note, I wish to thank the Editor-in-Chief, Kamel Khalili, for his patience, advice and inspiration. And to the authors, I express my gratitude for their hard work, understanding, professional excellence, and integrity.

Address correspondence to Dr. Peter G.E. Kennedy, Division of Clinical Neurosciences, University of Glasgow, Institute of Neurological Sciences, Glasgow, G51 4TF, Scotland, United Kingdom. E-mail: P.G.Kennedy@clinmed.gla.ac.uk