Journal of Medicinal Chemistry

Editorial

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Hepatitis C Virus (HCV) Therapies Special Thematic Issue: Call for Papers

Hepatitis C virus (HCV) is estimated to chronically infect approximately 150 million individuals worldwide, causing a disease that is largely asymptomatic for 20−30 years but that inflicts significant damage to the liver over that time and frequently results in hepatocellular carcinoma and end-stage liver disease. HCV was identified by Michael Houghton and colleagues at the Chiron Corporation in 1989.[1] Characterization of the biochemical pharmacology of the HCV viral proteins, as facilitated by subgenomic analysis,[2] identified potential targets for intervention and led to the development of over 30 so-called direct acting antiviral agents (DAAs) against HCV, now in clinical development. HCV infection is curable, and current optimal therapy relies upon a combination of the immune stimulant pegylated interferon-α in conjunction with the nucleoside analogue ribavirin and a NS3 protease inhibitor. Recent clinical results suggest that combinations of DAAs hold considerable promise for the development of highly effective, interferon-free regimens for the treatment of HCV. Capitalizing on lessons learned from the discovery and development of drugs to treat human immunodeficiency virus-1 (HIV-1) infection, the pharmaceutical industry has implemented a broad-based strategy to identify DAAs with complementary mechanisms with the anticipation that multiple drugs will be required to effect cures while avoiding the emergence of resistant virus.

To capture the major advancements in new HCV therapies, the *Journal of Medicinal Chemistry*, in collaboration with *ACS Medicinal Chemistry Letters*, and the *Journal of Chemical Information and Modeling*, has decided to dedicate a special thematic issue on HCV therapies. For the *Journal of Medicinal Chemistry*, we anticipate that this issue will capture the discovery and development of many of the new HCV therapies in clinical trials, as well as exciting compounds in preclinical development.

For this *Journal of Medicinal Chemistry* special issue, we have invited Dr. Nicholas A. Meanwell from Bristol-Myers Squibb Research and Development, Wallingford, CT, and Dr. William J. Watkins from Gilead Sciences, Foster City, CA, to be the Guest Editors. Drs. Meanwell and Watkins are prominent scientists and active participants in the discovery and development of small molecule HCV therapeutics. As Guest Editors, they will take the lead in manuscript invitations and the review process all the way to publication of the issue.

We encourage you to submit your manuscripts at https://acs.manuscriptcentral.com/acs by August 31, 2013. Accepted articles for the thematic issues can be published immediately as JAMS or ASAPs but will be published together in the January 2014 special issue. In addition, articles will appear on a special online landing page dedicated to hepatitis C virus therapies.

Gunda I. Georg, Editor

Shaomeng Wang, Editor

AUTHOR INFORMATION

Notes

The views expressed in this editorial are those of the authors and not necessarily the views of the ACS.

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