

Acknowledgement to Referees

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Dear Reader,

Welcome to the final issue of *Molecular Diagnosis & Therapy* for 2021.

I wish to reflect on this year's achievements, and to thank all those who have contributed their time and effort to guarantee the quality of the content published in the journal.

To date, in 2021, over 50 articles have been published. The most popular of these in terms of downloads from Springer-Link have been:

- Current and Emerging Clinical Treatment in Mitochondrial Disease. Tinker, R.J., Lim, A.Z., Stefanetti, R.J. *et al. Mol Diagn Ther* **25**, 181–206
- Evaluating Infectious, Neoplastic, Immunological, and Degenerative Diseases of the Central Nervous System with Cerebrospinal Fluid-Based Next-Generation Sequencing. Tsamis, K.I., Sakkas, H., Giannakis, A. *et al. Mol Diagn Ther* **25**, 207–229
- Luminal Breast Cancer: Risk of Recurrence and Tumor-Associated Immune Suppression. Pellegrino, B., Hlavata, Z., Migali, C. *et al. Mol Diagn Ther* **25**, 409–424
- System-Wide Pollution of Biomedical Data: Consequence of the Search for Hub Genes of Hepatocellular Carcinoma Without Spatiotemporal Consideration. Sharma, A., Colonna, G. *Mol Diagn Ther* **25**, 9–27
- Leveraging the Fragment Length of Circulating Tumour DNA to Improve Molecular Profiling of Solid Tumour Malignancies with Next-Generation Sequencing: A Pathway to Advanced Non-invasive Diagnostics in Precision Oncology?. Underhill, H.R. *Mol Diagn Ther* **25**, 389–408
- Treatable Mechanisms in Asthma. Cazzola, M., Ora, J., Cavalli, F. *et al. Mol Diagn Ther* **25**, 111–121

The high quality of content published in *Molecular Diagnosis & Therapy* has been reflected in the most recent impact factor of 4.074 and CiteScore™ of 6.3. Further, *Molecular Diagnosis & Therapy* has published content in a timely manner, with an average time from submission to first decision of 14 days.

The COVID-19 pandemic has continued to present many challenges and I would like to thank all who have contributed to ensuring the journal has thrived despite the ongoing issues.

I would like to start by thanking the authors of the articles published in *Molecular Diagnosis & Therapy* over the course of 2021. The enthusiasm of all authors for their chosen fields and their willingness to contribute content to the journal are crucial for its continued success.

The quality of published articles is also testament to the diligence of the peer reviewers. I would like to acknowledge the following individuals who acted as reviewers for *Molecular Diagnosis & Therapy* in the last 12 months:

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I am also very grateful to the members of the journal's Honorary Editorial Board, who have acted as peer reviewers and authors, and have provided guidance on journal content, policy and processes.

Springer Nature has continued to support the global response to COVID-19 by making all relevant content immediately and freely available. Indeed, *Molecular Diagnosis & Therapy* has published a number of papers relevant to the COVID-19 pandemic that are free to access and can be found together as a journal collection (<https://link.springer.com/journal/40291/collections?filter=Open>), including:

- Analytical and Clinical Performance of Droplet Digital PCR in the Detection and Quantification of SARS-CoV-2. Kim, K.B., Choi, H., Lee, G.D. *et al. Mol Diagn Ther* **25**, 617–628 (2021)
- A Prospective Evaluation of the Analytical Performance of GENECUBE® HQ SARS-CoV-2 and GENECUBE® FLU A/B. Kiyasu, Y., Akashi, Y., Sugiyama, A. *et al. Mol Diagn Ther* **25**, 495–504 (2021).
- The Path Forward for COVID-19 Diagnostics. Usherwood, T., Zhang, L. & Tripathi, A. *Mol Diagn Ther* **24**, 637–639 (2020).
- Preliminary Analysis of B- and T-Cell Responses to SARS-CoV-2. Zhang, LX., Miao, SY., Qin, ZH. *et al. Mol Diagn Ther* **24**, 601–609 (2020).
- Soluble Urokinase Plasminogen Activator Receptor: A Biomarker for Predicting Complications and Critical Care Admission of COVID-19 Patients. Chalkias, A., Mouzarou, A., Samara, E. *et al. Mol Diagn Ther* **24**, 517–521 (2020).
- The Potential Role of Smartphone-Based Microfluidic Systems for Rapid Detection of COVID-19 Using Saliva Specimen. Farshidfar, N., Hamedani, S. *Mol Diagn Ther* **24**, 371–373 (2020).

In terms of other important company initiatives, the Springer Nature ‘Sustainable Development Goals (SDG) Programme’ is aiming to connect researchers who are tackling the world’s toughest challenges with practitioners in policy and business, while the ‘Women in Science’ initiative aims to help empower more women scientists to achieve scientific excellence. Finally, I am delighted to inform you that Springer Nature is now carbon neutral for its direct operations (offices, fleet and flights) and earlier this year signed The Climate Pledge, making a commitment to be Net Zero carbon by 2040.

Returning to *Molecular Diagnosis & Therapy*, the editorial program for 2022 is well under way, and I am looking forward to bringing you many high-quality and authoritative articles over the coming year.

I thank you for your continued support.

With best wishes,
Alison Fitches