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Editorial

Introduction

Infectious diseases remain one of the leading causes of death and disability worldwide. Despite remarkable advances in vaccine development over the last century, the ease of world travel and increased global interdependence have added complexity to the fight against these diseases. With the aim of providing a forum to discuss the challenges facing vaccine development, Fraunhofer USA Center for Molecular Biotechnology, in cooperation with the International Alliance for Biological Standardization, organize an annual conference “New Technologies, New Vaccines”, dating back to 2006. This conference addresses new substrates and methodologies for the production and assessment of vaccines, and new approaches to overcome hurdles in vaccine research and development. The manuscripts collected in this special issue reflect advances in the field of vaccinology that were presented at the eleventh conference in this series, held at the Hotel du Pont Conference Center in Wilmington, Delaware from March 20th to 23rd, 2016. The conference attracted over 120 attendees working on various aspects of vaccine development and regulation, including representatives from governmental research laboratories, regulatory agencies, academia and the pharmaceutical and biotechnology industries. Topics addressed included emerging and re-emerging infectious diseases, mosaic transmitted infectious diseases, antibody vaccines, systems biology approaches to vaccines, lead candidate identification, 

\textit{miRNA} biomarkers for VERO-cell tumorigenicity in a new African green monkey kidney cell line. As can be seen from the manuscripts compiled in this special issue, the conference proved an excellent venue for presenting new work on vaccine development. The relatively small size of the conference, and attendance by a wide range of vaccine developers and regulatory personnel, make it an excellent setting for productive discussions on all aspects of vaccinology. Further meetings in this series are anticipated.

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