

## Viral Immunology

We are pleased to announce that **Dr. Rodney Russell**, Professor of Virology and Viral Immunology, Division of Biomedical Sciences, Memorial University of Newfoundland, St. Johns will be assuming the role as Editor-in-Chief of *Viral Immunology* in May 2020, taking over from Dr. David Woodland. We warmly thank Dr. Woodland for his leadership and commitment to the journal over the past fourteen years.



Dr. Russell's journey in virology began in 1997 when he completed a master's studying HIV-1 latency under the supervision of Dr. Michael Grant at Memorial University. He subsequently did his PhD with Drs. Mark Wainberg and Chen Liang at McGill University, where he conducted research on HIV-1 genome dimerization and packaging during virus assembly. Dr. Russell then conducted his Postdoctoral training under the supervision of Drs. Sue Emerson and Bob Purcell at the NIH, during which he switched his focus to hepatitis C virus (HCV) entry and optimization of HCV cell culture systems.

Dr. Russell started his independent research lab at Memorial University in 2008. His research interests cover fundamental virology, including virus assembly, genome packaging and virus entry, as well as viral pathogenesis, immunopathogenesis, virus-host interactions and mechanisms of virus-induced cell death. His team is currently funded by the Canadian Institutes for Health Research to study how viruses activate inflammasomes and induce pyroptosis. Other work performed by his team is funded by the Natural Sciences and Engineering Research Council of Canada and is aimed at developing new fluorescence-based approaches to visualize live viruses and their proteins inside infected cells.

His research is published in several journals including *Scientific Reports*, *Journal of Virology* and *Virus Research*, as well as in *Nature Chemical Biology* and *PNAS*. He has served as an active member of the Canadian and international virology communities in the capacity of Graduate Student, Postdoc or Primary Investigator for 23 years.

He currently sits on the Executive Committee for the Canadian Society for Virology and is a member of the Canadian Network on Hepatitis C.

"We are in an interesting and exciting, but also frightening, time in the field of viral immunology. The recent emergence of a novel virus and the havoc that it is reaping globally is testament to the absolute requirement for continued investment in basic virology and immunology. Understanding this virus and the immune response against it is what will lead to vaccines and therapies that will protect us from this virus in the coming years" says Dr. Russell.

Please join us in warmly thanking Dr. Woodland for his dedication to the publication, and welcome Dr. Russell to the helm.

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