

Preface

Since the discovery of astroviruses in 1975, the astrovirus field has continued to make new and exciting discoveries. Although typically overshadowed by other enteric viruses like rotavirus and norovirus, astroviruses are increasingly recognized as a major source for outbreaks of gastroenteritis and diarrhea in animals, including humans and birds worldwide. In the past several years, there has been a rapid increase in the number of astroviruses detected across diverse species with increasing evidences that astroviruses likely cross species barrier and may be zoonotic. In spite of this increase in our knowledge, much work remains on understanding the basic virology, epidemiology, immunology, and pathogenesis of this varied group of viruses. One of the most pressing needs given the increasing viral diversity is a unified naming system that accounts for the species and genogroup of newly isolated viral strains. This and developing good diagnostic tools to understand the prevalence of astroviruses in nature will continue to move the field forward and increase our understanding of this fairly understudied, but interesting, group of viruses.

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Astrovirus Research

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