



# Virus Evolution: Current Research and Future Directions

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The field of virus evolution has developed during the past three decades, from one considered by many to be esoteric and unimportant for human and agricultural health, to a major driver of our thinking about infectious diseases of plants and animals. The field has been spurred on during the past 30 years by emerging viral diseases such as HIV/AIDS, hantaviruses, SARS, MERS, and Ebola, along with discoveries of the quasispecies nature and potential for rapid evolution and diversification of RNA virus populations. Over time, the focus of research has expanded and developed to encompass a diverse mixture of approaches, from highly theoretical and mechanistic studies of the basic evolutionary mechanisms to detailed research on the molecular host range, as well as virulence changes responsible for emerging viral diseases. This timely book addresses a wide range of current questions and research approaches at the forefront of the field and highlights recent advances in the understanding of the history and mechanisms of virus evolution. Wherever possible, the book's contributors have integrated information from the study of plant, animal, and bacterial viruses. Every effort has been made to unify findings and to highlight the diversity in patterns and modes of virus evolution between systems in order to aid comparative analysis. The book will be essential reading for everyone working on virus evolution and emerging viral diseases. It is also recommended for anyone working in the area of viral pathogenesis. [Subject: Microbiology, Virology, Life Science]

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## **Virus Evolution: Current Research and Future Directions From Caister Academic Press Bibliography**

- Sales Rank: #2363288 in Books
- Published on: 2016-01-01
- Original language: English
- Number of items: 1
- Dimensions: 9.21" h x .99" w x 6.14" l, .81 pounds
- Binding: Paperback
- 366 pages



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