Dr. Sandy Weller, an accomplished herpes virologist, has edited a book entitled *Alphaherpesviruses: Molecular Virology* (ISBN 978-1-904455-76-9). As background, the human alphaherpesviruses consist of herpes simplex virus (HSV)-1 and HSV-2 and varicella zoster virus (VZV). These viruses have the propensity to replicate in neuronal tissues and establish latency. She has assembled a talented series of authors, all of whom have been recognized for their contributions to understanding the molecular biology of HSV-1 and VZV infections. Virus entry, uncoating, translation and assembly are all addressed. Specific reference is made to the ability of alphaherpesviruses to control innate host immune responses. Such survival tactics have allowed these viruses to be maintained in the human host for thousands of years. The important characteristic of all alphaherpesviruses is their ability to establish latency and be reactivated periodically with the proper provocative stimulation. Thus, chapters on latency are important contributions to this series of articles. Translation of knowledge from molecular virology to our understanding of the development of vaccines, immunity and, ultimately, the potential for control are all addressed. Lastly, the potential use of HSV as an oncolytic virus, as well as a vector, are all represented. The chapters are detailed with sufficient references to support the work presented in each chapter.

While not the compendium of *Fields Virology*, *Alphaherpesviruses: Molecular Virology* provides an important niche in dealing specifically with HSV and VZV. The chapters are provocative summaries of existing knowledge regarding these two viruses in particular. As such, it provides insightful reading for graduate students, in particular.

Of note, Dr. Weller and her colleagues dedicated the book to Dr. Priscilla Schaffer, long a colleague of all of ours in the field of HSV infections. The tribute to her contributions to our understanding of HSV infections is well recognized in the introduction. As scientists, we all applauded her contributions and will miss her.

**Disclosure statement**

The author declares no competing interests.

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**Book report**

*Alphaherpesviruses: Molecular Virology*

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