

INFLUENZA: THE ONCE AND FUTURE VIRUS

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Influenza A viruses cause significant morbidity and mortality annually as seasonal influenza, and the advent of a new pandemic underscores the need for new therapeutic strategies. There are severe limitations to the current antiviral therapies available and the importance of secondary bacterial infections in seasonal and pandemic influenza has not been fully appreciated. The mechanisms by which influenza A viruses adapt to new host species are poorly understood as is the molecular basis for pathogenicity.