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Genomics and Evolution of Sauropsid Traits in the Genomics Era

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Message from the Guest Editors

The evolution of the epidermis and epidermal appendages in amniotes has allowed them to diversify into nearly every niche on earth. In birds, feathers are perhaps the most intriguing due to their vibrant colors and morphological diversity. Multiple technologies have been used to study genes associated with the evolution of the epidermis; however, with the growing number of whole-genome sequences, comparative genomics has come to the forefront. The explosion of avian genomes in 2014 coincided with the identification and characterization of the chicken epidermal differentiation complex (EDC; Strasser et al. 2014). The chicken EDC is a genomic locus containing over eighty genes that encode for proteins comprising the avian epidermis and epidermal appendages. The realization that these genes evolved on a conserved genomic locus has invigorated the study of the avian and reptilian epidermis. We invite colleagues who are investigating the genes of the EDC and the evolution of the avian epidermis to contribute to this Special Issue of *Genes*.



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Special Issue



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Message from the Editor-in-Chief

Genes are central to our understanding of biology, and modern advances such as genomics and genome editing have maintained genetics as a vibrant, diverse and fastmoving field. There is a need for good quality, open access journals in this area, and the *Genes* team aims to provide expert manuscript handling, serious peer review, and rapid publication across the whole discipline of genetics. Starting in 2010, the journal is now well established and recognised.

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