

1. Record Nr.	UNINA9910131531503321
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Titolo	Comparative studies between HTLV-1 and HTLV-2 function and pathobiology [[electronic resource] /] / topic editors Umberto Bertazzoni and Françoise Bex
Pubbl/distr/stampa	Frontiers Media SA, 2015 [Lausanne, Switzerland] : , : Frontiers Media SA, , 2015 ©2015
Descrizione fisica	1 online resource (94 pages) : illustrations; digital, PDF file(s)
Collana	Frontiers research topics
Soggetti	Microbiology Microbiology & Immunology Biology Health & Biological Sciences
Lingua di pubblicazione	Inglese
Formato	Materiale a stampa
Livello bibliografico	Monografia
Note generali	Bibliographic Level Mode of Issuance: Monograph
Nota di bibliografia	Includes bibliographical references.
Sommario/riassunto	Human T-cell leukemia viruses 1 and 2 (HTLV-1 and HTLV-2) have similar genomic structure but differ in pathogenicity. HTLV-1 is associated with ATL whereas HTLV-2 has not been linked to lymphoproliferative diseases. A comparative analysis between the two viruses is important to reach a better understanding of the difference in pathogenesis. A key role is attributed to the Tax proteins; Tax-1 function and structure has been thoroughly investigated but less is known about Tax-2. Recent studies on HTLV-1 and HTLV-2 expression strategies highlighted converging patterns as well as peculiar differences in the expression of regulatory proteins that might influence the pathobiology of these viruses. The study of interaction of regulatory proteins with cellular pathways factors has opened new avenues in understanding the mechanisms of gene transcription and deregulation. However, further investigation is needed on the role on innate immunity on HTLV-1 and HTLV-2 pathogenesis. Concerning the mechanisms of infection and related diseases and of their interaction

with other co-infecting agents, the comparison between HTLV-1 and HTLV-2 needs further investigation.
