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New Insights for Neglected Tropical Diseases with a Focus on Schistosomiasis

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Deadline for manuscript
submissions:
closed (15 December 2023)

Message from the Guest Editors

Schistosomiasis is a public health concern in 78 countries. Thanks to global efforts, the prevalence of schistosomiasis has been reduced substantially in some countries. The World Health Organization (WHO) set a goal to eliminate schistosomiasis in 69 countries by 2025 and 78 countries by 2030. However, in many schistosomiasis-endemic countries, prevalence has remained high in some areas due to reinfection despite repeated mass drug administration (MDA) interventions. Without tackling the repeated recurrence of schistosomiasis infection in these areas, it would be difficult to move toward the elimination phase. In accordance with this global effort, a new strategy was warranted to realize the NTD second roadmap incorporating open defecation elimination, vector control, improvement in diagnosis particularly at the point of care, and health system strengthening. Still, there is lack of empirical evidence to support the integrated approach, and the question of how to incorporate each component in control and elimination program in more sustainable and scalable manner remains unanswered.



mdpi.com/si/134844

Special Issue



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