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Recent Advances in Nontuberculous Mycobacteria (NTM)

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Message from the Guest Editors

Nontuberculous mycobacteria (NTM) constitute a group of over 180 *Mycobacterium* species, with the exception of the *Mycobacterium tuberculosis* complex and *Mycobacterium leprae*. NTM species can cause a variety of infections in humans and animals, including pneumonia, lung abscess, pleural infection, meningitis, lymphadenitis, and skin and soft tissue infection. Mycobacterioses are difficult to treat because therapy is long, expensive, more toxic, and more prone to failure than tuberculosis treatment. Recently, an increase in the number of infections caused by NTM bacilli has been recorded all over the world.

The proper diagnosis of mycobacteriosis is based on clinical features and microbiological tests, including culture, histopathology and molecular methods. Knowing the capabilities and limitations of laboratory testing is critical to making the right clinical decisions. Hence, one of the most important roles of modern microbiology laboratories is the diagnosis and species identification of NTM, and distinguishing them from MTBC strains.

In this Special Issue, we will provide an overview of the current diagnostic options for suspected NTM infection.

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Message from the Editor-in-Chief

The worldwide impact of infectious disease is incalculable. The consequences for human health in terms of morbidity and mortality are obvious and vast but, when infections of animals and plants are also taken into account, it is hard to imagine any other disease that has such a significant impact on our lives—on healthcare systems, on agriculture and on world economics. *Pathogens* is proud to continue to serve the international community by publishing high quality studies that further our understanding of infection and have meaningful consequences for disease intervention.

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