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Feature Papers on Parasitic Pathogens

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Message from the Collection Editor

Parasitic diseases are caused by numerous and diverse infectious organisms, ranging from protozoa to helminths. Many of these pathogens have complex life cycles and require transmission by vectors, or they may involve intermediate hosts. If only some of these parasites can be acutely lethal, many result in chronic infections that often cause severe morbidity, and thus they represent major global burdens on both human and animal health. Current research efforts are thus driven by the need to discover and develop novel antiparasitic drugs, but also by sheer curiosity, with the aim of unravelling the most original biological features of these fascinating pathogens.

This topical collection welcomes contributions that include original research and review papers, covering all aspects of parasitology and host–parasite relationships in the context of the biological, medical, and veterinary sciences. This includes the latest findings in biochemical, molecular, and cellular parasitology, but also the immunology, genetics and epidemiology of parasitic diseases. However, it should be noted that case reports will only be considered if they bring considerable novelty to the field.

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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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