



Vesicular Stomatitis Virus: Agricultural Pathogen and Human Medical Research Tool

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Message from the Guest Editors

Vesicular stomatitis virus (VSV) is a zoonotic, insect-vectored animal pathogen that causes painful lesions in a broad range of ungulates, particularly equines, and is responsible for economic losses in the Americas due to animal health and movement restrictions. The recent re-emergence of both VSV New Jersey (2019-2020) and Indiana (2020) strains in the U.S. exemplifies the current relevance of this pathogen from the veterinary perspective. In contrast to being the causative agent for these agriculturally devastating outbreaks, VSV is also a prototype non-segmented negative-stranded RNA virus widely employed as a medical research tool for targeted therapeutics and vaccines. Recent development of recombinant VSV vectored vaccines for high priority pathogens such as ebolavirus, influenza, and HIV, as well as exploitation of its oncolytic activity, demonstrates its versatility as a tool to benefit public health.





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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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