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# Investigation of Amoeba and Associated Microbial Communities from Different Water Sources: Characterization, Interactions and Effects

Guest Editors:

#### Dr. Geoffrey J. Puzon

Commonwealth Scientific and Industrial Research Organisation, Canberra, Australia

#### Dr. Tom Kieran Walsh

Commonwealth Scientific and Industrial Research Organisation, Canberra. Australia

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# **Message from the Guest Editors**

Dear Colleagues,

Most water studies focus on the bacterial component and not on the eukaryotes in the microbiome. While free-living amoebae (FLAs) make up a large component, their persistence and capacity for disease in water systems is not well-understood. Pathogenic FLAs have a direct role in human diseases such as *Naegleria fowleri* in primary amoebic meningoencephalitis (PAM), *Acanthamoeba* in Acanthamoeba Keratitis (AK) and *Acanthamoeba* and *Balamuthia* in granulomatous amoebic encephalitis (GAE). Both pathogenic and non-pathogenic FLAs can also influence the pathogenicity of bacteria as well as aid the presence and persistence of amoebae-resistant bacterial pathogens such as *Legionella*, *Chlamydia*, *Shigella* and non-tuberculous mycobacterium (NTM).

This Special Issue aims to provide further understanding of: potential organisms supporting FLAs' presence; interactions of FLAs with the surrounding microbes; potential impacts on FLA–microbial ecology interactions due to climate change; new methods to detect and identify the diversity of FLAs in natural and engineered water systems.







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#### Dr. Jean-Luc PROBST

Laboratory of Functional Ecology and Environment, Centre National de la Recherche Scientifique (CNRS), University of Toulouse, Campus ENSAT, Auzeville Tolosane, France

## **Message from the Editor-in-Chief**

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