



## An Ancient Terror, *Yersinia pestis*: What's New?

Guest Editor:

**Dr. Ronan Jambou**

Global Health Department,  
Institut Pasteur, 75015 Paris,  
France

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### Message from the Guest Editor

For centuries, plague has been regarded with biblical terror "the black Death" afflicting humans since the Neolithic Age. In our modern world where boats can rapidly and easily transport rodents and fleas, the dissemination of plague is still a concern. Moreover, climate change can also modify the global distribution of the three fundamental determinants of plague: fleas, rodents and *Y. pestis*. *Yersinia pestis* is a complex and interesting pathogen with an ecological life circle that sharply adapts to the vector, rodents, and the environment. The last ten years have brought new insight into the understanding of this pathogen; several phylogroups have been described, and genomes from ancient strains have been fully sequenced. Thus, the role of plasminogen activators in rodent invasion has come to be understood.

In the era of the COVID-19 pandemic, which has brought new insight into disease dissemination, it is time to identify what we know and what remains uncertain about plague. This Special Issue of *Pathogens* aims to highlight and address scientific knowledge in this area. Original research papers as well as reviews proposing overviews of this "Ancient terror" are welcome.





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## Editor-in-Chief

### Prof. Dr. Lawrence S. Young

Warwick Medical School,  
University of Warwick, Coventry  
CV4 7AL, UK

## 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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Pathogens Editorial Office  
MDPI, St. Alban-Anlage 66  
4052 Basel, Switzerland

Tel: +41 61 683 77 34  
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