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Anthrax—a Threat beyond *Bacillus anthracis*

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Message from the Guest Editors

For decades, *Bacillus anthracis* was considered to be the only bacterial agent causing anthrax disease. *B. anthracis* is a member of the *Bacillus cereus* group in which bacteria are related on the chromosomal level, but possess a variety of plasmids responsible for different pathogenicities. As exchange of genetic material occurs naturally in the genus *Bacillus*, it is not unexpected that *B. anthracis* virulence genes and plasmids could occur in other species. During the last 20 years, increasing numbers of anthrax-like cases have been detected that were caused by such atypical *Bacilli*. The cluster of Bcbva was detected in African rain forest areas where these bacteria mainly affect wildlife species. Human exposure has been reported based on serological evidence. *B. tropicus* G9241 and other *Bacillus* spp. expressing anthrax toxins have caused severe and fatal infections amongst welders in the US. In addition, these *Bacillus* strains expressing anthrax toxins cause cutaneous infections resembling anthrax. In this Special Issue of *Pathogens*, we would like to cover all aspects of this emerging group of atypical *Bacilli* causing anthrax-like disease.

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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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