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Going Viral—Parasite Virulence Factors on the Cutting Edge of Parasite Research

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Message from the Guest Editors

Dear Colleagues,

Parasites are both extremely fascinating and scary—fascinating referring to their survival in the most challenging environments and scary referring to their roles in millions of deaths each year. Highly specialized virulence factors help parasites to invade, colonize and modulate different niches in an organism to ensure their survival and dissemination among a population of susceptible hosts. Due to their importance in infectious diseases, profound knowledge of their biology is key for the rational development of interventions. Recent years have seen an exciting boost in parasite research, and new technologies have been applied to understand the functions of virulence factors. In this Special Issue of *Genes* “Going viral—parasite virulence factors on the cutting edge of parasite research”, the different aspects of virulence factors biology in different parasite species will be addressed, providing a broad overview of their regulation, evolution, and functions.



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Special Issue



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Message from the Editor-in-Chief

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