

Special Issue

New Insights into Leishmaniasis and Chagas Disease: Focus on Diagnosis and Genetic Characterization of the Parasites

Message from the Guest Editors

Leishmaniasis and Chagas disease (CD), caused by the kinetoplastid protozoa *Leishmania* spp. and *Trypanosoma cruzi*, respectively, are among the most relevant Neglected Tropical Diseases (NTDs).

Leishmaniasis is endemic in more than 90 territories, and an increasing number of non-endemic countries also face imported cases. Besides, parasite characterization contributes to improving surveillance and disease control, allowing us to monitor the geographical distribution of the strains, and their epidemiological cycles and to detect outbreaks.

On the other hand, CD has gradually spread from Latin America to the world and is now transmitted in non-endemic countries. Early diagnosis and treatment are essential in managing the infection. However, the wide diversity of available diagnostic methods highlights the need for a common and agreed strategy. The genetic diversity of *T. cruzi* seems to play a key role in CD diagnosis but taxonomic studies are hampered by the lack of standardized molecular typing methods.

We are pleased to invite you to contribute to this Special Issue focused on the diagnosis and genetic diversity of these parasitic infections with original articles, reviews.

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Deadline for manuscript submissions

closed (6 October 2023)



Life

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Impact Factor 3.4
CiteScore 6.0
Indexed in PubMed



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