



Transfusion-Transmissible Infections and Epidemiological Surveillance

Guest Editors:

Dr. Vincenzo De Angelis

National Blood Centre, Italian
National Institute of Health,
00161 Rome, Italy

Dr. Ilaria Pati

National Blood Centre, Italian
National Institute of Health,
00161 Rome, Italy

Deadline for manuscript
submissions:

closed (31 May 2023)

Message from the Guest Editors

Dear Colleagues,

Transfusion-transmissible infectious agents are among the greatest threats to blood safety for transfusion recipients, and are a serious public health problem.

The safety of blood and blood components has dramatically increased over the last several decades thanks to the adoption of strict criteria for blood donor selection and the screening of all blood units for known transfusion-transmissible infections, with the combined implementation of highly sensitive antigen/antibody-based assays and nucleic acid testing, the rational use of blood to avoid unnecessary transfusions, and the introduction of pathogen-reduction technologies.

However, the last several decades have been characterized by the appearance of a significant number of emerging pathogens, and by the reappearance of infectious diseases with global impact, threatening transfusion safety. Blood donor screening tests may not be available for some of these pathogens.

We hope this Issue will provide insights into the epidemiology of blood donors, as well as the best strategies for TTI risk reduction and ensuring blood donation safety, even during outbreaks from newly introduced or re-emerging pathogens.





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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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Journal Rank: JCR - Q2 (*Microbiology*) / CiteScore - Q2 (*General Immunology and Microbiology*)

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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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