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Host-Pathogen Interactions during Leishmania Infections—a Special Issue in Honor of Prof. Dr. John David

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Message from the Guest Editors

John R. David graduated in Medicine in Chicago and joined the Massachusetts General Hospital in Boston, moving to New York University where he discovered the macrophage migration inhibitory factor (MIF) in the mid-1960s. From there, he went to Harvard where he made ground-breaking contributions in the early 1970s on the function of cytokines in allergies. He sensed the gap between technical advances and tropical medicine and dedicated his forces to closing it, especially in leishmaniasis. This began with the production of the first leishmanial-specific monoclonal antibodies in the 1980s with Diana McMahon-Pratt. Latterly, he established a long-term collaborative project between Harvard and Brazil on the disease. He also sensed the need for simpler, less aggressive methods of treatment and personally pioneered the use of radiofrequency-induced heat therapy for cutaneous leishmaniasis in the Middle East and South America. John's enthusiasm has no limits and is contagious, as can be seen by the trail of discoveries that his work has led to. This Special Issue is in honour of John's amazing contributions, with a focus on the many fields of neglected pathological diseases.



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Special Issue



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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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