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Animal Models for Human Viruses

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Message from the Guest Editors

Many virus infections in humans do not need an animal as an in-between host. Other viruses in humans can have a zoonotic origin. Viruses may have a wide host range or a very narrow species or cell tropism. After spillover of animal viruses to humans, virus replication in humans is often blocked or limited, and these humans represent dead-end host. However, virus adaption over the time may generate true human viruses.

Animal models for human viruses deal with the delicate virus tropism and adaptation to human systems. For some viruses, the animal host may very well support virus spread and replication, while others may need genetic changes in the animal host, adaptations to host-cell factors or hybrid models in which human cells are transplanted into an animal to give the virus a suitable environment. Animal models for human viruses are needed to describe basic questions about cellular replication pathways, mechanism of latency, tissue reservoirs, and are of importance in investigating antiviral drugs, vaccines or any other preventive technique to inhibit virus spread or replication. This Special Issue of *Pathogens* welcomes reviews and articles reporting original data.



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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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