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Global Elimination of Viral Hepatitis

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Message from the Guest Editors

Dear colleagues,

Five unrelated hepatotropic viruses are the cause of viral hepatitis, which is a major concern of global public health. Hepatitis A virus (HAV), hepatitis B virus (HBV), hepatitis C virus (HCV), hepatitis D (delta) virus (HDV), and hepatitis E viruses (HEV) are different causes for acute and chronic types of hepatitis that can lead to life-threatening complications such as cirrhosis and hepatocellular carcinoma (HCC). Different strains of these viruses have distinct geographical distributions, with almost 600 million carriers worldwide. The annual mortality rate of viral hepatitis is around 1.5 million individuals, of which the majority are related to HBV and HCV infections. Relying on advanced diagnostic techniques and strategies for blood screening together with the availability of efficient vaccine and effective antiviral treatment for HBV and HCV, respectively, WHO has implemented a global elimination program in 2016 to end it in 2030. The success of this program depends on the improvement of our insight into the epidemiology, diagnosis, treatment, and prophylactic countermeasures of viral hepatitis.

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Editor-in-Chief

Prof. Dr. Lawrence S. Young
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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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CiteScore 2019 (Scopus): **3.1**, which equals rank 138/283 (Q2) in the 'Infectious Diseases' category, rank 26/45 (Q3) in 'General Immunology and Microbiology' and rank 61/115 (Q3) in 'Microbiology (medical).'

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