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Molecular Epidemiology of Trypanosomes

Guest Editor:

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Message from the Guest Editor

Trypanosomes are responsible for a range of important diseases including African sleeping sickness and Chagas disease in humans and Nagana and Surra in animals. Traditional approaches using comparative morphology based primarily on the morphological structures of the adult bloodstream (trypomastigote) form have been widely used for the identification of *Trypanosoma*. Microscopy-based methods, however, although cost-effective, suffer from many limitations including being time-consuming, reliant on the variable expertise of microscopists, and in many cases cannot identify to the species level. Antibody-based tests are widely used for the detection of trypanosomes in humans; however, they suffer from variable sensitivity and specificity and can fail to detect positives in samples with low parasitemia or individuals with poor antibody responses, such as immune-compromised individuals.

In this context, *Pathogens* is launching a Special Issue devoted to the 'Molecular Epidemiology of Trypanosomes'.

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Editor-in-Chief

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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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