



The Twists and Turns of Pathogenic Spirochetes: Novel Insights for Prevention, Diagnosis and Treatment

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Message from the Guest Editor

Spirochetes are an intriguing group of bacteria. When looking at their infectivity to hosts, they have similar cellular morphologies. A large number of members are known to be pathogens causing diseases worldwide such as Lyme disease, relapsing fever, syphilis, brachyspiral dysentery, and leptospirosis. They are all very different in their genomes. Besides being unique among bacteria in their motility, which enables them to move within the tissue of their hosts, they also depend on a host of outer surface proteins for evasion of the innate and adaptive immune response within the host. The identification and description of the adaptations required for pathogenic spirochetes to be able to enter, disseminate, persist, and infect is still very new and challenging. An increased understanding in this field is fundamental for better diagnosis, treatment, and prevention.

I welcome colleagues investigating any of the pathogenic spirochetes within the areas of their ecology, genetics, genomics, immunology, detection, public health, and vaccine development to submit their manuscripts to this Special Issue in the form of original research and reviews.

Dr. Ryan O. M. Rego

Guest Editor





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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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