Message from the Guest Editors

Dear Colleagues,

The term “prion” was coined to describe a family of proteinaceous infectious particles that include pathogens as well as viruses and bacteria, with the disease caused by them being named prion disease. Although we have been aware of the existence of prions for almost 40 years already, the physiological function of the prion protein, which is the main body of the pathogen, is still not well understood. Therefore, scientifically uncertain aspects cannot be completely wiped out, and this means that prion disease remains fatal. As such, it is crucial to understand the prion protein, which forms the basis of the prion concept from a scientific viewpoint, and to develop a therapeutic method for prion disease.

In this special issue, we will accept a wide range of manuscripts (including research articles and reviews) from the viewpoint of basic cell biology, and the fields of medicine and veterinary medicine, including bovine spongiform encephalopathy (BSE), to understand prion as a pathogen.
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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