

# Special Issue

## Free-Living Amoebae Infections

### Message from the Guest Editors

Free-living amoebae are ecologically relevant cosmopolitan protozoa, since they contribute to the biological control of bacterial populations, recycling nutrients in the soil. However, a group of these amoebas have aroused interest in the biomedical area due to the pathologies they cause, making it necessary to designate this group as amphizoic amoebas, highlighting *Naegleria fowleri*, *Acanthamoeba* spp., and *Balamuthia mandrillaris* as etiological agents of infections in most of the cases in the central nervous system, cornea and skin, for which up to now there are no drugs of choice. It is important to explore advances in the diagnosis and treatment of the pathologies caused by these amoebas, as well as epidemiological data that demonstrate their importance worldwide. No less important is the description of the pathogenicity mechanisms that allow the search for more effective therapeutic targets.

### Guest Editors

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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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### Editor-in-Chief

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