

Special Issue

Leishmaniasis: Current Status and Future Perspectives

Message from the Guest Editors

Leishmaniasis stands as one of the most neglected diseases worldwide, presenting a significant challenge to control efforts. The escalating resistance to drugs employed in its treatment is an alarming trend. Despite attempts to mitigate the disease's vector, these efforts have largely proven ineffective, leading to its widespread prevalence across numerous countries. At present, there exists no anti-leishmaniasis vaccine for humans, and only one option available for preventing canine leishmaniasis (CanL) in Europe. However, even this option has restricted reach. In Brazil, a country bearing the brunt of visceral leishmaniasis cases in the Americas, all vaccines for CanL have been withdrawn from the market, leaving prevention strategies severely lacking. To combat the spread of the disease, Brazilian authorities have introduced novel measures such as the use of deltamethrin 4%-impregnated collars for dogs. Nonetheless, it is evident that further research is crucial to enhance vector control methods, develop new drugs or treatment regimens for both humans and animals, and advance the development of more effective vaccines.

Guest Editors

Dr. Maria do Socorro Pires Cruz

Laboratory of Animal Health and Integrated Research Center for Morphology and Stem Cells, Center of Agrarian Sciences, Federal University of Piauí (UFPI), University Campus Minister Petrônio Portella, Teresina, Brazil

Dr. Flávia de Oliveira Cardoso

Laboratory of Immunomodulation and Protozoology, Oswaldo Cruz Institute, Oswaldo Cruz Foundation, Rio de Janeiro, Brazil

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Editorial Office
MDPI, Grosspeteranlage 5
4052 Basel, Switzerland
Tel: +41 61 683 77 34
pathogens@mdpi.com

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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.

Editor-in-Chief

Prof. Dr. Hinh Ly

Department of Veterinary & Biomedical Sciences, University of Minnesota, Twin Cities, MN, USA

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