Special Issue

New Insights on Parasites as Bioindicators

Message from the Guest Editors

Parasitism is one of the most successful survival strategies for living organisms. Since parasites (helminths, protozoa, and arthropods) are important components of complex systems, they are susceptible to the same environmental processes that affect their hosts. Therefore, although considered neglected biodiversity, parasites are bioindicators of the health of hosts and ecosystems. Anthropogenic environmental degradation (deforestation, urbanization, climate change, and pollutants/contaminants), in addition to favoring greater interaction between parasiteshumans-wild and domestic animals, and consequently, the emergence of parasitic zoonoses, can also enhance the pathogenicity of parasites. This process must be analyzed from ecological, evolutionary, and socioeconomic perspectives. In the context of the One Health approach, which assumes that the health of animals, humans, plants, and the environment is connected and interdependent, parasites can provide information about the health and conservation of biodiversity and ecosystems.

Guest Editors

Prof. Dr. Jaqueline Bianque de Oliveira

Laboratório de Parasitologia, Departamento de Biologia, Universidade Federal Rural de Pernambuco, Recife, Brazil

Dr. Müller Ribeiro Andrade

Laboratório de Parasitologia e Saúde Única-ParasitOH, Instituto de Ciências Biológicas e da Saúde, Universidade Federal de Alagoas, Maceio, Brazil

Deadline for manuscript submissions

20 December 2025



Pathogens

an Open Access Journal by MDPI

Impact Factor 3.3 CiteScore 6.8 Indexed in PubMed



mdpi.com/si/209005

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

mdpi.com/journal/pathogens





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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.

Editor-in-Chief

Prof. Dr. Hinh Ly

Department of Veterinary and Biomedical Sciences, College of Veterinary Medicine, University of Minnesota, Saint Paul, MN 55108, USA

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