Special Issue

Brucella Species and *Brucella melitensis*

Message from the Guest Editors

Brucellosis is recognized as one of the most prevalent bacterial zoonoses worldwide, caused by infection with Gram-negative bacteria of the genus *Brucella*. A wide range of domestic and wild animals can be identified as primary hosts, with humans as secondary. *Brucella* species are small, Gram-negative and coccobacilli bacteria. Twelve species have been described and six are known to be pathogenic for both animals and humans. In that context, *human* exposure occurs through contaminated food products (meat and raw, unpasteurized milk), direct contact with infected animals, or inhalation of contagious aerosols. Humans are accidental hosts, but brucellosis continues to be a major public health and zoonotic concern. A significant proportion of cases still continue to be unreported or unspecified. However, brucellosis can affect all age and sex groups, and its control in humans largely depends on limiting the infection in animals through surveillance and care programs, as well as through animal vaccination; efficient strategies for prevention among exposed professionals can help, too.

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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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