

Special Issue

Protists as Pathogens

Message from the Guest Editors

Apart from being fascinating and often wondrously beautiful organisms, protists also pose a considerable threat to human and animal health. Indeed, one of the oldest scourges of mankind, the malaria parasite *Plasmodium falciparum*, is a protist and still ranks as one of the major causes of death worldwide. Additionally, a large number of other protist parasites such as *Leishmania* spp., *Trypanosoma* spp., and *Entamoeba histolytica* cause great suffering in many parts of the world. Despite being microbes, protists are much more closely related to their hosts than to bacteria, thereby complicating treatment because most antibiotics used against bacteria are ineffective against protists. Furthermore, protist parasites have proven elusive to vaccines, limiting our arsenal of preventive measures. It is therefore of prime importance to understand the biology of protist parasites and to use this knowledge for the development of treatment options.

Thus, the rewards of doing research on protist parasites are manifold and we invite you to submit original research, review articles, short notes, or communications dealing with pathogenic protists for this Special Issue of *Pathogens*.

Guest Editors

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About the Journal

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

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