Special Issue

New Insights on Canine Visceral Leishmaniasis

Message from the Guest Editors

Leishmaniasis is a group of infectious and parasitic diseases caused by protozoa of the genus *Leishmania*. Leishmaniasis manifests a wide clinical spectrum, and among them, visceral leishmaniasis (VL) is the most severe form. VL caused by *Leishmania infantum* (sin. *Leishmania chagasi*) is a zoonosis whose main urban reservoir is the dog (*Canis familiaris*). Importantly, cases of canine visceral leishmaniasis (CVL) precede HVL cases, emphasizing the important role of dogs in the urban parasite transmission cycle. Diagnostic method improvements are required in addition to immunoprophylactic approaches that is the main rational strategy to control the human and canine VL. Moreover, additional challenges are the new treatments and predictive disease biomarker studies regarding the CVL resistance and susceptibility outcome.

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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

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