

Special Issue

New Insights into *Clostridioides difficile* Pathogenesis and Novel Treatment Strategies

Message from the Guest Editors

The anaerobic spore forming pathogen *Clostridioides difficile* is the leading cause of antibiotic-associated diarrhea (AAD) worldwide. *C. difficile* can persist as hardy stress-resistant spores that germinate in the host intestine upon encounter with bile acids and other co-germinants. Once germinated, *C. difficile* produces three protein toxins, TcdA and TcdB, and a transferase toxin CDT. Although extensive studies have revealed the role of *C. difficile* toxins in pathogenesis, less is known about the functions of other *C. difficile* virulence factors such as spores, flagella, and other cell wall proteins that might participate in pathogen–host interaction. In the midst of the COVID-19 pandemic, in which the elderly population is most at risk, similar symptoms associated with both CDI and COVID-19 can delay proper diagnosis and treatment of either infection. The high relapse rate associated with *C. difficile* infections (CDI) and the multi-antibiotic resistant nature of the pathogen also strongly indicate that alternative treatment strategies need to be developed and made available soon.

Guest Editors

Dr. I-Hsiu Huang

Department of Biochemistry and Microbiology, Oklahoma State University Center for Health Sciences, Tulsa, OK 74107, USA

Dr. Jenn Wei Chen

Department of Microbiology and Immunology, National Cheng Kung University, Tainan, Taiwan

Deadline for manuscript submissions

closed (31 December 2021)



Pathogens

an Open Access Journal
by MDPI

Impact Factor 3.3
CiteScore 6.8
Indexed in PubMed



mdpi.com/si/74349

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

[mdpi.com/journal/
pathogens](https://mdpi.com/journal/pathogens)





Pathogens

an Open Access Journal
by MDPI

Impact Factor 3.3
CiteScore 6.8
Indexed in PubMed



[mdpi.com/journal/
pathogens](https://mdpi.com/journal/pathogens)



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

Prof. Dr. Hinh Ly

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

Author Benefits

Open Access:

free for readers, with article processing charges (APC) paid by authors or their institutions.

High Visibility:

indexed within Scopus, SCIE (Web of Science), PubMed, MEDLINE, PMC, Embase, PubAg, CaPlus / SciFinder, AGRIS, and other databases.

Journal Rank:

JCR - Q2 (Microbiology) / CiteScore - Q1 (Infectious Diseases)