Special Issue

The Road to Eliminating Filarial Diseases—Treatment, Diagnostic and Surveillance Strategies

Message from the Guest Editors

Human filariae such as Onchocerca volvulus. Wuchereria bancrofti and Brugia spp. are vector-borne parasitic nematodes that are endemic in tropical and subtropical regions. Approximately 1 billion individuals live in endemic regions where filarial diseases are a public health concern contributing to significant disability adjusted life years. Thus, efforts to control and eliminate filarial diseases were launched by the WHO in the 1970s. These strategies are mainly based on mass drug administration targeting the worm's offspring (microfilariae), and are accompanied in part by vector control strategies. The World Health Assembly approved development and implementation of the WHO's roadmap to attain the Sustainable Development Goals. which includes the halt of onchocerciasis transmission and elimination of lymphatic filariasis as a public health problem by 2030.

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Deadline for manuscript submissions

closed (30 September 2023)



Pathogens

an Open Access Journal by MDPI

Impact Factor 3.3 CiteScore 6.8 Indexed in PubMed



mdpi.com/si/118592

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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

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