Special Issue

Understanding Host-Tick-Pathogen Interactions through Animal Models

Message from the Guest Editors

When we use animal models to ask questions about tick-borne diseases in humans, we are faced with the challenge of finding an appropriate surrogate for the human—a model species that demonstrates clinical disease and a shared biological response with humans. Scientists have used a wide variety of animal species as models for understanding interactions between the vertebrate, tick vector, and tick-borne pathogen for over a century. For this Special Issue, we are inviting original research utilizing an animal model for studying mechanisms of tick-borne disease, emphasizing studies that use natural tick transmission. Studies with non-murine models are particularly solicited, with the choice of model (murine or non-murine) clearly justified in the manuscript. Tick-borne pathogens range from bacteria (e.g., *Borrelia*, spotted fever group *Rickettsia, Ehrlichia,* and *Anaplasma*) to apicomplexan protozoa such as *Babesia* and viruses such as Heartland and Powassan. Short communications, methods papers formatted as original research or short communications, and reviews will also be considered.

Guest Editors

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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/112053

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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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