

Special Issue

Pathogenesis and Treatment of Giardiasis

Message from the Guest Editors

Giardia lamblia (syn., *G. intestinalis*, *G. duodenalis*) is a protozoan parasite that causes acute diarrhea in humans. Giardiasis, the disease caused by *Giardia* species, is a widespread infection transmitted among humans and occasionally from animals to humans. Direct contact with contaminated feces or feces-contaminated water and food is the main source of infection. Although distributed worldwide, infection with *Giardia* tends to occur in confined outbreaks, especially in low- and middle-income countries, with or without poor water supply and sanitation. The disease is characterized by flatulence, abdominal distention and cramps followed by watery diarrhea that later becomes bulky and greasy. Giardiasis is self-limiting in most of infected individuals, but can evolve to chronic or post-infectious gastrointestinal complications. In poor-resource settings, giardiasis is considered a public health problem because it is associated with malnutrition and growth failure in young children.

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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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