Special Issue

Lentivirus Infections in Small Ruminants

Message from the Guest Editor

Small ruminant lentiviruses (SRLVs) are a group of viruses, classically known to include the maedi visna and caprine encephalitis viruses, able to persistently infect monocyte/macrophage lineages of sheep, goats, and wild ruminants, inducing a multisystemic disease that affects the lungs, the central nervous system, udders, and carpal joints. Although more than 60 years have passed since the discovery of SRLVs in the late 1950s, and despite the promising results of studies that have been carried out, no vaccines or treatments are available at present. The identification of new genotypes and subtypes has enlarged the genetic and antigenic spectrum of SRLVs, assisting with serological and molecular diagnosis and stimulating research on alternative tools for the control of SRLVs, such as insights into innate immunity and the selection of resistance genes. To date, four main genotypes have been described (A, B, C, and E), with more than 25 subtypes in genotype A, 5 subtypes in genotype B, and 2 subtypes in genotypes C and E. Economic losses in the dairy and meat industries that use small ruminants are likely due to imprecise SRLV diagnosis.

Guest Editor

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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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