Special Issue

The Interplay of Microbiota and Polyomaviruses in Human Health and Disease

Message from the Guest Editor

Human polyomaviruses (HPyVs) are small non-enveloped DNA viruses widely distributed among the population. Following initial asymptomatic infection, HPyVs establish a lifelong persistence as part of the body microbiota, with low levels of replication and shedding. However, in immunocompromised conditions, viral reactivation can occur, posing a significant pathogenic treat. JC, BK and Merkel Cell polyomaviruses (JCPyVs, BKPyVs, MCPyVs) are well known to be disease-associated. In particular, MCPyV is the only one responsible for human cancer. The dynamic interactions among latent/persistent HPyVs infection and other components of microbiota may be crucial for the onset of various human diseases. Understanding these relationships may contribute towards identifying diagnostic and prognostic markers or pathways to recognize or characterize virus-associated disorders early. In this Special Issue, we intend to explore some aspects to better understand the interplay within HPyVs and microbiota and its contribution to human diseases. Studies on cellular pathways altered by these interactions and potentially involved in disease progression are welcome.

Guest Editor

Dr. Valeria Pietropaolo
Department of Public Health and Infectious Diseases, "Sapienza" University, 00185 Rome, Italy

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

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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

Prof. Dr. Moriya Tsuji
School of Engineering Medicine, Texas A&M University, 2121 West Holcombe Blvd., Suite 1007, Houston, TX 77030, USA

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