Special Issue

Antimicrobial Resistance and Virulence Characterization of *Listeria monocytogenes*

Message from the Guest Editors

Listeria monocytogenes is one of the most significant foodborne pathogens, responsible for listeriosis, a severe disease with the highest mortality rate among foodborne infections. This pathogen is a noteworthy example of a human pathogen that highlights the importance of the One Health approach. In high-risk human populations, such as the elderly, pregnant women, neonates, and immunocompromised individuals, L. monocytogenes infection can lead to serious clinical outcomes such as septicemia, meningoencephalitis, and miscarriage, often accompanied by high morbidity and mortality. In animals, particularly ruminants, it can cause encephalitis, reproductive losses, and death, and they may also serve as reservoirs and carriers of the pathogen. The ubiquitous presence of L. monocytogenes in the environment and its ability to persist in food processing facilities enables it to contaminate processed and ready-to-eat foods, posing a significant threat to food safety. Despite growing concern, comprehensive data on antimicrobial susceptibility testing, pathogenicity and molecular characterization of resistant L. monocytogenes strains remain limited.

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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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