Special Issue

Recent Advances in Shigella

Message from the Guest Editors

Members of the genus *Shigella* are responsible for shigellosis, a human gastrointestinal infection that can have symptoms ranging from moderate diarrhea to severe and potentially life-threatening dysentery. Phylogenetically, Shigella is actually a group contained within *Escherichia coli*. The literature typically identifies this group as comprising four species: *S. flexneri*, *S. sonnei*, *S. dysenteriae*, and *S. boydii*. Some of the difficulties in studying this pathogen stem from the absence of a fully accepted animal model and a clear understanding of the full range of virulence factors and survival strategies used by the pathogen within the host and in nature. It is the goal of this Special Issue to touch upon special areas of interest related to the ubiquity of this group of pathogens, the lifestyle that is unique to this group and the molecular basis for its pathogenesis. Another goal is to consider ways to prevent the spread of shigellosis through the development of non-antibiotic therapeutics, to provide prophylactic immunity through the development of novel vaccines and to improve our ability to surveil and block the spread of these pathogens.

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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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