Special Issue

Virulence Mechanisms of *Rickettsiae*

Message from the Guest Editor

Recent advances in the genetic manipulation of *Rickettsia* species and related bacteria have opened new avenues of research for the identification and characterization of bona fide virulence determinants and of how these factors are potentially utilized to modulate target cell functions. Whereas the last few decades of research have furthered our understanding of how *Rickettsia* species can cause disease in infected mammals, there still remain unanswered questions regarding the molecular determinants that are responsible for the initiation of severe and often fatal diseases by these unique obligate intracellular bacteria. This Special Issue will focus on, but not exclusively, the following areas of research:

- Interactions of *Rickettsia* species and related pathogens with target host cells in mammals and vectors
- Modulation of immunologic responses to *Rickettsia* species in humans and mammals
- Development and refinement of animal models of disease
- Genetic manipulation of obligate intracellular bacteria
- Development of novel efficacious therapeutic strategies against rickettsial diseases

Guest Editor

Prof. Dr. Juan J. Martinez
School of Veterinary Medicine, Louisiana State University, Baton Rouge, LA 70803, USA

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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. Hinh Ly
Department of Veterinary and Biomedical Sciences, College of Veterinary Medicine, University of Minnesota, Saint Paul, MN 55108, USA

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