

Special Issue

New Insights into HTLV-1-Related Inflammatory Diseases

Message from the Guest Editors

Human T-cell leukemia virus-1 (HTLV-1)-associated myelopathy/tropical spastic paraparesis (HAM/TSP) is induced by chronic inflammation in the spinal cord triggered by HTLV-1 infection. The discovery of HAM/TSP revealed that HTLV-1 has the potential to induce not only aggressive lymphoproliferation as the oncovirus leading to the development of adult T-cell leukemia (ATL), but also profound inflammatory status by immunologic activations. Indeed, there are many reports that several inflammatory diseases, such as uveitis, myositis, pulmonary disorder, arthritis, and Sjögren's syndrome, occasionally occur in HTLV-1-infected individuals, including HAM/TSP patients. Thus, there has been an increasing awareness that HTLV-1 is a powerful inflammation causative agent. Looking into the diseases induced by HTLV-1 infection from the point of view of the inflammatory status, in this Special Issue, we aim to foster open and active discussion on the clinical and molecular characteristics, as well as therapeutic strategies, of HTLV-1-related inflammatory diseases, including HAM/TSP. We warmly invite colleagues to contribute original research articles or reviews to this Special Issue.

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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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