Special Issue

Emerging Topics in Leishmaniasis Research

Message from the Guest Editor

Leishmaniases are vector-borne parasitic diseases caused by dixenous trypanosomatids from the Leishmaniinae subfamily. The three main clinical forms of these diseases are visceral, cutaneous and mucocutaneous. Visceral leishmaniasis is a systemic disease mainly affecting tissues, such as bone marrow. spleen and liver; it is fatal for most untreated or misdiagnosed cases. Cutaneous form is characterized by ulcerative skin lesions in exposed body parts, and is the most common form of Leishmaniases. The mucocutaneous form is characterized by destructive lesions in mucosal membranes of mouth, throat and nose. These diseases can cause serious disability. lifelong scars and stigma since they are heavily associated with poverty and its impact. Leishmaniases are complex diseases involving a wide range of species in parasite, vector sand fly, and natural reservoir hosts. There is no licensed vaccine for humans, prevention and control measures are limited, and available treatment drugs have a high toxicity with many side effects. Diagnosis is primarily clinical and is usually confirmed using serological devices that have a high cross-reactivity with other trypanosomatids.

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