



Smallpox and Emerging Zoonotic Orthopoxviruses: What Is Coming Next?

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Deadline for manuscript
submissions:

closed (30 November 2017)

Message from the Guest Editors

Forty years ago, the last known natural case of smallpox was reported in Somalia. Subsequently, in 1980, the World Health Assembly declared smallpox eradicated. However, after smallpox eradication, vaccination campaigns gradually ceased creating a growing population of persons now susceptible to infection by poxviruses previously covered by the smallpox vaccine. Coincidentally or not, in the last decades an increasing number of cases involving these zoonotic OPVs has been described. This has raised concerns not only with regard to the (re-) emergence of OPVs, but also about the intentional use of especially variola virus in bioterrorism attacks.

In this Special Issue, we welcome the poxvirus community to submit research papers or review articles related to all aspects of orthopoxvirus research. Phylogenetic and epidemiological studies are welcome, as well as papers covering topics like bioterrorism, medical countermeasures and studies of basic and host–virus relationships.

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Message from the Editor-in-Chief

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Electronic files or software regarding the full details of the calculation and experimental procedure, if unable to be published in a normal way, can be deposited as supplementary material.

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