

Special Issue

Highly Pathogenic Avian Influenza Virus Emergence

Message from the Guest Editor

Highly pathogenic avian influenza virus (HPAIV) outbreaks have resulted in billions of poultry deaths through the culling of infected or potentially exposed poultry. HPAIVs emerge from low pathogenic avian influenza viruses (LPAIVs) upon transmission from wild waterfowl to terrestrial poultry. They constitute the only lineage of HPAIV that has become endemic in poultry and is circulating in wild birds in many countries of the world. Besides these devastating consequences on animal welfare and the poultry industry, spill-over events of HPAIVs to humans pose a continuous pandemic threat. Understanding the main drivers of HPAIV emergence is critical for the design and implementation of strategies to mitigate their impact on animal species. The scope of this Special Issue is to gather articles (research articles, short communications, reviews, and commentaries) on the viral, host, and environmental factors that drive HPAIV emergence, regarding both the transition from LPAIV to HPAIV as well as HPAIV emergence, natural selection, and establishment in different animal species.

Guest Editor

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Message from the Editor-in-Chief

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