



Gastroenterology: The Pathogenic Potential of *Mycobacterium paratuberculosis* and Emerging Treatment Targets to Address Increasing Resistance

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Message from the Guest Editors

Mycobacterium avium ssp. *paratuberculosis* (MAP) has been implicated in the development of Crohn's disease for over a century. Despite recent insights pointing to a multi-modal model of disease pathogenesis, how it causes disease has so far eluded scientists. This Special Issue focuses on how MAP promotes IBD development with increasing evidence of its carriage/invasive potential and hinderances to potential therapeutic targets, with the aim of progressing existing knowledge of the mechanism of inflammation and the ongoing challenges in therapy. Biofilms are a virulence factor in mycobacterial infections, and the involvement of the microbiome in IBD raises the possibility of the availability of nutrients and complex interactions between mycobacterial growth-promoting factors. Moreover, each step is susceptible to disease development and so provides opportunities for a combination of therapies. An improved understanding of MAP and its detection, especially regarding how it affects the gut epithelium in humans as it does in Johne's Disease, is crucial.

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Message from the Editor-in-Chief

There are very few fields that attract as much attention as scientific endeavor related to antibiotic discovery, use and preservation. The public, patients, scientists, clinicians, policy-makers, NGOs, governments, and supra-governmental organizations are all focusing intensively on it: all are concerned that we use our existing agents more effectively, and develop and evaluate new interventions in time to face emerging challenges for the benefit of present and future generations. We need every discipline to contribute and collaborate: molecular, microbiological, clinical, epidemiological, geographic, economic, social scientific and policy disciplines are all key. *Antibiotics* is a nimble, inclusive and rigorous indexed journal as an enabling platform for all who can contribute to solving the greatest broad concerns of the modern world.

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