

Special Issue

Infectious Disease Research in Birds Seen Through the Lens of Metagenomics

Message from the Guest Editor

Infectious diseases in birds encompass complex interplay between diverse pathogens, including viruses, bacteria, fungi, and parasites, with host factors that may determine the clinical outcome and ecological consequences. Free-roaming avifauna can serve as reservoirs of diverse pathogens, many of which pose significant biosecurity threats to immunologically naïve avian populations in captivity, to endangered wildlife, poultry, and livestock, and even to human health, owing to potential spillover events. Advances in DNA sequencing technology have equipped us with a plethora of metagenomic toolkits, which have enabled the exploration and surveillance of a vast variety of pathogens in avian hosts without prior information or bias. These advancements have augmented novel pathogen discovery at a much faster pace, have enabled clinical disease and outbreak investigations with greater ease, have allowed the examination of host–pathogen interactions in specialized ecological niches, and so on. Furthermore, a targeted metagenomic approach holds significant implications in disease surveillance and mitigating the risk of emerging infections including zoonoses.

Guest Editor

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Message from the Editor-in-Chief

Animals is an on-line open access journal that was first published in 2011. *Animals* adheres to rigorous peerreview and editorial processes and publishes only high quality manuscripts that address important issues in the many varied disciplines that involve animals, with a focus on animal science, animal welfare and animal ethics. *Animals* is covered in the Science Citation Index Expanded (SCIE) in Web of Science, with the latest Impact Factor: 2.7 (2024, ranks 15/86 (Q1) in 'Agriculture, Dairy & Animal Science'; 21/170 (Q1) in 'Veterinary Sciences'), 5-Year Impact Factor: 3.2.

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