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Drivers of Emergence of Zoonotic Viruses in Wildlife

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Message from the Guest Editors

In the era of the Anthropocene, the emergence of zoonotic pathogens, including those with high pandemic potential, is occurring at a faster rate than in any preceding historical phase. There is also scientific evidence of an increasing rate of novel emerging infectious diseases; during the last century, on average, two new viruses per year have spilled over from their animal hosts into human populations, or vice versa. Although zoonotic diseases have been receiving increasing attention, their emergence is a complex process, and the combination of driving factors and events that allow them to expand and adapt to new niches are rather poorly understood. These drivers are environmental, social, political, and economic forces, operating from global to local changes.

The aim of this Special Issue is to collect studies, both in the form of research papers and reviews, that investigate key processes correlating pathogen emergence or spillover at different spatial scales.

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Message from the Editor-in-Chief

"Microorganism" merges the idea of the very small with the idea of the evolving reproducing organism is a unifying principle for the discipline of microbiology. Our journal recognizes the broadly diverse yet connected nature of microorganisms and provides an advanced publishing forum for original articles from scientists involved in high-quality basic and applied research on any prokaryotic or eukaryotic microorganism, and for research on the ecology, genomics and evolution of microbial communities as well as that exploring cultured microorganisms in the laboratory.

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