



Molecular and Cellular Research on Targets for Antimalarial Therapy Development

Guest Editor:

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Deadline for manuscript submissions:
closed (15 January 2026)

Message from the Guest Editor

Despite concerted efforts to develop chemotherapies and vaccines, nearly half of the world's population remains at risk of malaria. In 2022, there were an estimated 249 million cases and 608,000 deaths, with *Plasmodium falciparum* and *P. vivax* being the primary causes of human disease. While the combined effects of indoor residual spraying, insecticide-treated bed nets, and artemisinin combination therapies reduced malaria incidence and mortality between 2000 and 2015, progress has subsequently stalled. Cases and deaths have both been increasing since 2019 due to insecticide and antimalarial drug resistance, disruptions due to the COVID-19 pandemic, and other factors. Due to acquired resistance mutations in the parasite, there is a desperate need to identify new targets for vaccine or antimalarial development. As unique mechanisms of action are especially desirable, molecular and cellular studies of the parasite and its interactions with the host and vector are needed.





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Message from the Editor-in-Chief

The worldwide impact of infectious disease is incalculable. The consequences for human health in terms of morbidity and mortality are obvious and vast but, when infections of animals and plants are also taken into account, it is hard to imagine any other disease that has such a significant impact on our lives—on healthcare systems, on agriculture and on world economics. *Pathogens* is proud to continue to serve the international community by publishing high quality studies that further our understanding of infection and have meaningful consequences for disease intervention.

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Journal Rank: JCR - Q2 (Microbiology) / CiteScore - Q1 (Infectious Diseases)

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