



## Cytomegalovirus (CMV) Infection and Latency

Guest Editor:

### **Dr. Christine M. O'Connor**

Genomic Medicine, Lerner  
Research Institute, Cleveland  
Clinic, Cleveland, OH 44106, USA

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### **Message from the Guest Editor**

Cytomegalovirus (CMV) is a herpesvirus that infects the majority of the population worldwide. While latent infection remains, for the most part, asymptomatic in healthy, immune-competent individuals, the virus poses a significant threat to those with weakened immune systems. CMV-associated disease following reactivation of latent infection is a risk factor for transplant patients undergoing immunosuppressive therapies, cancer patients treated with aggressive chemotherapies, immunocompromised AIDS patients, and even otherwise healthy individuals suffering from diseases such as atherosclerosis and inflammatory bowel disease. The current antiviral therapies target late stages of viral replication, when the disease is already primed to occur, underscoring the need for novel treatments targeting CMV prior to disease onset. This necessitates enhanced understanding of the latent and reactivation phases of infection.

Continued efforts aimed at understanding CMV latency and reactivation will undoubtedly provide insights into the mechanisms this pathogen uses to manipulate its host and cause disease.





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## Editor-in-Chief

### Prof. Dr. Hinh Ly

Department of Veterinary &  
Biomedical Sciences, University  
of Minnesota, Twin Cities, MN,  
USA

## 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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Pathogens Editorial Office  
MDPI, Grosspeteranlage 5  
4052 Basel, Switzerland

Tel: +41 61 683 77 34  
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