



## Fungal Pathogenicity Factors

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### Message from the Guest Editors

Phytopathogenic fungi are responsible for serious economic losses of various crops worldwide. In recent decades, the ban of numerous phytosanitary products has limited the number of solutions to treat fungal diseases. This highlights the needs to better understand the mechanisms deployed by phytopathogenic fungi to colonize and attack plants, in order to investigate new control solutions and to breed new cultivars resistant to such diseases.

The co-evolution of plants and fungi resulted in a large number of forms of pathogenic interactions played by necrotrophic, biotrophic or hemibiotrophic agents. These different trophic relations are supported by different molecular mechanisms, including toxin production, effector secretion or hydrolytic enzyme secretion. The infection of plants is also enabled by the production of fungal structures which help fungi to invade plant tissues, such as germ tubes evolving as appressoria, haustoria, primary and/or secondary hyphae.





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## Editor-in-Chief

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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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