



Host–Pathogen Interactions and Their Impact on Bacterial Virulence

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Message from the Guest Editors

Dear Colleagues,

We are constantly exposed to a myriad of potential pathogens through ingestion, inhalation, and contact with biotic or abiotic surfaces. Although various pathogens disseminate through human-to-human transmission, major infectious agents are often directly acquired from their environmental niches. Pathogens' reservoirs may thus represent a training ground shaping the bacterial genome and the virulence toolkits and positively selecting for transmission and virulence traits detrimental to humans.

The aim of this research topic is to provide insight into the complex communication between bacterial pathogens and their host(s). More specifically, we wish to highlight how bacteria exploit host-derived cues and stress to favor increased virulence towards humans.

Include but are not limited to, the following topics:

- Resistance to and evasion of the host immune response;
- Bacterial transmission and adaptation to the host;
- The regulation of virulence programs by host signals;
- Bacterial phenotypic heterogeneity and persistence within the host.





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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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