



The Biology of Streptococcus and Streptococcal Infection

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Message from the Guest Editor

Streptococci are significant pathogens in humans, animals, and fish. Some show a high degree of host and disease specificity whilst others can cause a wide array of different pathologies in distinct hosts. Many streptococcal species, commonly considered pathogens, also co-exist in an asymptomatic carriage state with their host; while others, originally considered benign commensals, have now been associated with diseases such as endocarditis and colon cancer.

The investigation into the biology of streptococcus has a history of discovery across the wider fields of biology; it was research on streptococci which led to the discovery that DNA was the molecule of heredity and, in more recent years, led to the discovery of the CRISPR/Cas system. The investigation of streptococcal diseases offers the opportunity to investigate the fundamental processes of infection in an unprecedented array of host-pathogen combinations. For most of us, this will be specifically focused on understanding distinct individual processes, such as transmission, colonization, the avoidance of/resistance to host defenses, or the induction of pathology.





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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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