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Reverse Microbial Etiology in Plants

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Message from the Guest Editors

"Reverse microbial etiology" is a new research area aimed to prospective prediction, prevention and control of future infectious disease challenges. It is an indispensable strategy for early warning and response to emerging infectious diseases in the future. Microbial pathogens heavily reduce the crop yield and quality annually, yet known pathogens are only a tip of the iceberg. The new emerging crop diseases in the future will be caused by new potential pathogens, which may be identified by metagenomics-based field survey and investigated in advance. The theme of this special Issue is "Reverse microbial etiology in plants", which focuses on discovering and isolating new plant viruses, bacteria, fungi or other parasites that may cause disease outbreaks in the future, evaluating the potential pathogenicity, and studying the infection mechanisms, virulence factors, host range, transmission, and evolution. It will lay a foundation for us to explore strategy for detection, prevention and control of crop diseases before the potential outbreak.

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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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