



Viral Infections and Their Effects on the Central Nervous System (CNS)

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Message from the Guest Editors

The severe acute respiratory syndrome coronavirus 2 (SARS-CoV-2) pandemic has uncovered numerous unexpected complications and sequelae that impact peripheral organ systems as well as the nervous system. Individuals living with chronic inflammatory diseases including human immunodeficiency virus-1 (HIV-1) may be at greater risk for developing new or worsening cardiovascular, metabolic and cognitive impairment. The intersection of SARS-CoV-2 and HIV-1 is particularly important. SARS-CoV-2 infection in PWH may be exacerbated by age-related illnesses, smoking, substance use or other comorbid conditions. Scientists and clinicians continue to explore the effects of SARS-CoV-2 infection on the nervous system and the potential contributions of chronic diseases such as HIV to the outcomes and disease trajectory.

Several nervous system disturbances have been seen with SARS-CoV-2 infection, including cerebrovascular disease, impaired consciousness, and skeletal muscular injury, among others. Here, in the USA, CNS involvement including stroke is reported in approximately one-fourth of patients. Peripheral nervous system disorders such as Guillain–Barré syndrome are also present.





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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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