



Surveillance of Zoonotic Pathogens Carried by Wildlife

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Message from the Guest Editor

Diseases that can be transmitted from animals to humans are extremely numerous, and warrant consideration. According to the World Organization for Animal Health (OIE), 60% of human infectious diseases are zoonotic, and 75% of emerging human infectious diseases are zoonoses. The current coronavirus pandemic forcibly brings this information home. Certain zoonoses, such as salmonellosis, leptospirosis, and rabies, are common and widespread in most countries. Others, such as arboviruses, glanders, and the plague, are rarer, or more geographically localized. Zoonoses are extremely variable with regard to their medical severity. Some have the potential to be fatal, such as viral encephalitis and Ebola. Others, such as Lyme disease, are the subject of scientific and media controversy.

The OIE also state that 72% of the 60 emerging infectious diseases that have an animal origin or reservoir are of wildlife origin, and 144 human diseases originating from pathogens in wild animals have become important to human health in the past 60 years. Therefore, it is urgent that we expand and effectively disseminate our knowledge on wildlife as a reservoir of zoonotic agents.





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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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