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PrP^{Sc} prions: state of the art

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Message from the Guest Editors

Despite major steps forward achieved in the last three decades of research on prions, there are still unresolved key issues, including resolution of the structure of infectious prions at the atomic level, and understanding the molecular mechanisms ruling the strain variability and interspecies transmission, as well as the exact pathogenic mechanism of prion disease. However, the last decade has been particularly prolific in advances in the field, so that shedding a definitive light on these issues now appears more feasible than ever. Among others, prion propagation *in vitro* has been achieved, leading to the generation of recombinant infectious prions; the basic architecture of infectious prions has been deciphered, and new prion disease types have been described.

This Special Issue devoted to “PrP^{Sc} Prions: Towards the final frontier”. Both original research and review articles are welcomed. Potential topics include, but are not limited to:

- Transmission barriers
- Pathogenic mechanisms
- Potential functions of PrP^C
- Towards a definitive diagnosis in prion diseases.



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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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