



Emerging Topics in Leishmaniasis Research

Guest Editor:

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Message from the Guest Editor

Leishmaniasis are vector-borne parasitic diseases caused by dixenous trypanosomatids from the Leishmaniinae subfamily. The three main clinical forms of these diseases are visceral, cutaneous and mucocutaneous. Visceral leishmaniasis is a systemic disease mainly affecting tissues, such as bone marrow, spleen and liver; it is fatal for most untreated or misdiagnosed cases. Cutaneous form is characterized by ulcerative skin lesions in exposed body parts, and is the most common form of Leishmaniasis. The mucocutaneous form is characterized by destructive lesions in mucosal membranes of mouth, throat and nose. These diseases can cause serious disability, life-long scars and stigma since they are heavily associated with poverty and its impact. Leishmaniasis are complex diseases involving a wide range of species in parasite, vector sand fly, and natural reservoir hosts. There is no licensed vaccine for humans, prevention and control measures are limited, and available treatment drugs have a high toxicity with many side effects. Diagnosis is primarily clinical and is usually confirmed using serological devices that have a high cross-reactivity with other trypanosomatids.

