

Topical Collection

Advanced Research on Avian Influenza Virus (AIV)

Message from the Collection Editors

The sudden emergence of the Asian-lineage H5N1 subtype of highly pathogenic AIV (HPAIV) in 2003 and H7N9 subtype of low pathogenic AIV (LPAIV) in 2013, both of which cause fatal diseases not only in birds but also in humans, has greatly impacted the world. Near-global spread of the H5N1 HPAIV has caused tremendous problems with public health and poultry production. Continuous co-circulation of the various subtypes of AIVs, including HPAIV and LPAIV, in poultry and wild birds can result in genetic reassortments, generating novel viruses. Indeed, in recent years, the Asian-lineage H5 subtype HPAIVs carrying various NA subtypes, namely H5N2, H5N6, H5N8 and other HPAIVs, have been causing outbreaks in many countries in the Asian, European, Middle East, and African regions. Further, genetic changes in the H7N9 LPAIV have generated the H7N9 HPAIV, further threatening poultry and humans. It should be quite important to continuously monitor the evolution of AIV, and also to gain further knowledge on the pathogenicity of AIV.

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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.

Editor-in-Chief

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