

Special Issue

The Past and Present Threat of Rickettsial Diseases (Volume II)

Message from the Guest Editor

Tropical rickettsial illnesses are severely neglected tropical diseases that have substantial impact on both rural and urban populations. For scrub typhus, all countries with established surveillance systems—available for South Korea, Japan, China, and Thailand—have reported increasing minimum incidence rates over the past decade. Recent reports from South America and Africa suggest a wider distribution outside of Asia. For murine typhus, an equally important and even more neglected disease with a more urban distribution, a lot of clinically relevant information on the natural history, disease burden, diagnostics and pathogen characterization is lacking. Spotted fever group rickettsia transmitted largely by ticks should also receive more attention, especially concerning reports from tropical and subtropical regions. Scrub typhus and murine typhus together are responsible for a substantial proportion of undiagnosed febrile illnesses in humans in many parts of the tropics.

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