DESCRIPTION

Infectious diseases constitute one of the main challenges to medical science in the coming century. The impressive development of molecular megatechnologies and of bioinformatics have greatly increased our knowledge of the evolution, transmission and pathogenicity of infectious diseases. Research has shown that host susceptibility to many infectious diseases has a genetic basis. Furthermore, much is now known on the molecular epidemiology, evolution and virulence of pathogenic agents, as well as their resistance to drugs, vaccines, and antibiotics. Equally, research on the genetics of disease vectors has greatly improved our understanding of their systematics, has increased our capacity to identify target populations for control or intervention, and has provided detailed information on the mechanisms of insecticide resistance.

However, the genetics and evolutionary biology of hosts, pathogens and vectors have tended to develop as three separate fields of research. This artificial compartmentalisation is of concern due to our growing appreciation of the strong coevolutionary interactions among hosts, pathogens and vectors.

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All researchers interested in the relevance of genetics and evolution in the study of infectious and parasitic diseases. Genetics is taken here in a broad sense and includes postgenomic and proteomic studies.

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Igor Mokrousov, Saint Petersburg Pasteur Scientific Research Institute of Epidemiology and Microbiology, 14, Mira st., 197101, St. Petersburg, Russian Federation
Serge Morand, Institute of Evolution Science of Montpellier, Case Courier 064, F-34095, Montpellier, France
Gemma Murray, University of Cambridge Department of Veterinary Medicine, Madingley Road, CB3 0ES, Cambridge, United Kingdom

Dimitrios Paraskevis, National and Kapodistrian University of Athens School of Medicine, Mikras Asias 75 street (Goudi), 115 27, Athens, Greece

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Marcos Perez-Losada, The George Washington University Computational Biology Institute, 45085 University Drive, Ashburn, Virginia, VA 20147-2766, United States

Tung Phan, Indiana University Department of Pathology and Laboratory Medicine, 702 Barnhill Drive, Room 0969, Indianapolis, Indiana, IN 46202-5120, United States

Vijay Kumar Prajapati, Central University of Rajasthan, School of Life Sciences, Department of Biochemistry, Ajmer, India

Shoukat Qari*, Centers for Disease Control and Prevention Office of Public Health Preparedness and Response, 1600 Clifton Road, MS D-44, Atlanta, Georgia, 30333, Georgia, USA

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INTRODUCTION
Infectious diseases constitute one of the main challenges to medical science in the coming century. The impressive development of molecular megatechnologies and of bioinformatics have greatly increased our knowledge of the evolution, transmission and pathogenicity of infectious diseases. Research has shown that host susceptibility to many infectious diseases has a genetic basis. Furthermore, much is now known on the molecular epidemiology, evolution and virulence of pathogenic agents, as well as their resistance to drugs, vaccines, and antibiotics. Equally, research on the genetics of disease vectors has greatly improved our understanding of their systematics, has increased our capacity to identify target populations for control or intervention, and has provided detailed information on the mechanisms of insecticide resistance.

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