Emerging and Re-emerging Zoonoses are Major and Global Challenges for Public Health

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The reconstruction of human and animal public health systems worldwide and the development of modern technologies for pathogen identification and tracking have greatly strengthened the understanding and control of emerging and re-emerging infectious diseases. The examples include, but are not limited to, new serotypes of avian influenza, novel variants of Bunyaviridae that causes severe fever with thrombocytopenia syndrome, Ebola viral disease, Zika virus disease, Streptococcus suis, Escherichia coli O104, and trypanosomiasis, some of which have caused regional epidemic or pandemic [9]. Before 2019, the WHO declared five Public Health Emergency of International Concerns (PHEIC) as the major public health challenges, including novel H1N1 influenza pandemic (2009), wild-type poliovirus (2014), Ebola virus disease in West Africa (2014), Zika virus disease (2016), and Ebola virus disease in the Democratic Republic of Congo (2019). In late 2019, a new coronavirus [severe acute respiratory syndrome coronavirus 2 (SARS-CoV-2)]-associated respiratory infectious disease, coronavirus (COVID-19) emerged [10]; this virus and its mutants have evolved rapidly and spread globally [11, 12]. By the end of June 2021, COVID-19 had caused approximately 180 million infected cases and 3.9 million deaths worldwide [13]. As the 6th PHEIC and the largest pandemic to date, COVID-19 has already caused trillions of dollars of economic losses and completely changed the what is considered normal globally. Despite the availability of vaccines for emergency usage, the...
COVID-19 pandemic is still far from under control, calling for the development of efficient anti-viral drugs, immunological studies of immune memory in infected/vaccinated human subjects, and epidemiological studies of potential reservoir animals.

Zoonoses, an open access journal, has been established to be part of the broader goal of sharing scientific findings and viewpoints, promoting national/international collaborations, and to increase public awareness of the health risks of zoonoses. This journal focuses on emerging and re-emerging zoonoses that are major and global challenges for human and animal health [14]. We welcome scientists and health professionals in basic, clinical, and field research to submit and contribute to Zoonoses.

AUTHOR CONTRIBUTIONS
Xiaoping Dong and Lynn Soong conceived and designed this editorial. Xiaoping Dong wrote the first version of the manuscript. Lynn Soong revised and finalized the manuscript. Both authors read and approved the final version of the manuscript.

CONFLICTS OF INTEREST
Xiaoping Dong and Lynn Soong are co-Editors-in-Chief of Zoonoses.

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