I am delighted to welcome you to the inaugural volume of *Current Research in Parasitology & Vector-Borne Diseases* (CRPVBD)! This is a new peer-reviewed gold open access journal from Elsevier devoted to publishing high-impact primary and review papers, short communications, graphical reviews, methodology and opinion papers covering all aspects of human and animal parasitology, vector biology and vector-borne pathogens.

The launch on 17 November 2020 has been both an enthusiastic and a well-thought-out endeavour. Three features of the journal are carved in stone from the launch: gold open access, editorial excellence, and journal as a … family.

- The gold open access publishing model guarantees global outreach - upon acceptance, all papers are immediately free to access and download from ScienceDirect®, Elsevier’s industry-leading online platform of peer-reviewed literature that reaches a global audience.
- Editorial excellence … The Advisory and Editorial Board members bring collectively more than 200 years of experience in successful development of renowned parasitology journals so that straight from launch CRPVBD was up-and-running with a competent editorial team dedicated to serving the publishing needs of scientists in a functional editorial structure. The fast turnaround time, rapid, thorough, and fair review, collegial atmosphere, helpful and friendly approach to our authors, and high publication standards are the main reasons colleagues come back to the journal, and I am confident this will lead to a continuous growth in the following years. Finally, the globally diverse Editorial Board albeit currently dominated by experts from the UK, USA and Australia (Fig. 1), brings the benefits of international representation in lowering bias in manuscript review and publication.
- Family … The editors of CRPVBD wholeheartedly endorse Professor Chris Arme’s concept of the journal as a family, whereby the publisher, editors, reviewers and authors are related through affection for the journal and cooperation aiming for excellence in science. I strongly believe this concept will play a major role in the development of CRPVBD.

This first year was rather busy, and the editorial team assessed more than 200 submissions to CRPVBD within 8 of the 11 main research areas highlighted in the journal scope:

- Diversity, distribution and ecology of parasites and arthropod vectors.
- Identification, taxonomy, systematics and molecular phylogenetics of parasites and vectors.
- Surveillance of vectors of public and veterinary health relevance. Assessment of vector-pathogen relationships and the risk of pathogen transmission and associated disease.
- Mathematical modelling of parasite and vector populations, parasitic infections, host-parasite and vector-pathogen interactions, and epidemiology of infectious diseases.
- Impact of environmental change on the transmission dynamics of parasites and the biology, ecology and distribution of intermediate hosts and vectors. Emergence, re-emergence and globalisation of vectors, pathogens and hosts and One Health.
- Parasitic and vector-borne diseases of humans, wildlife and domestic, farm and companion animals.
- Neglected tropical diseases (NTDs): diagnosis, monitoring, control and eradication/elimination.
- Molecular aspects of parasite and vector diversity and evolution including molecular epidemiology and population genetics mechanisms of anti-parasite drug resistance and insecticide resistance in arthropod vectors.
- Use of genomics, proteomics and bioinformatics technologies to study host-parasite/pathogen and parasite-host-microbiota interactions, and pathogen-microbiome interaction in vectors.
- Economic impact assessments of parasitic infections or vector-borne diseases.
- Outbreak investigations and impact assessments.

This is an open access article under the CC BY-NC-ND license (http://creativecommons.org/licenses/by-nc-nd/4.0/).
Six Co-Editors led handling manuscripts within the journal sections *Helminths* (Hesham Al-Mekhlafi), *Dipteran vectors* (David Weetman), *Protists & apicomplexans* (Frank Katzer), *Ticks & triatomine vectors* (Agustín Estrada-Peña), *Parasite genetics, genomics and proteomics* (Abdul Jabbar), and *Parasites of veterinary importance* (Emanuele Brianti). They endeavoured providing timely and constructive feedback, even for the manuscripts rejected without review. The Editorial Board members strongly supported the development of *CRPVBD* in its first year ensuring both thorough and rapid peer review process.

The results are both rewarding and stimulating: *CRPVBD* attracted high quality manuscripts rapidly. The inaugural volume contains 55 papers which are relatively evenly distributed across the journal sections, yet with a leading position of three sections (Fig. 2). This distribution reflects the distribution of all submissions and substantiates our assessment before the launch of *CRPVBD*, i.e. that there is a niche within the gold open access publishing model for a multidisciplinary general parasitology journal spanning all aspects of the diversity and biology of parasites, intermediate hosts and vectors, and parasitic and vector-borne diseases. It is worth noting that the geographical diversity of the corresponding authors at country level (Fig. 3) is rather similar to that of the Editorial Board, indicating the development of *CRPVBD* into a truly international journal. Although it is early days to assess the influence of the research published in the inaugural volume of *CRPVBD*, I would like to highlight the most downloaded papers, the reviews by Nguyen et al. (2021), Ghafar et al. (2021), Nash et al. (2021), Gomez-Chamorro et al. (2021) and Wu-Chuang et al. (2021), and the primary research papers by Barker et al. (2021), Egan et al. (2021), Ellis et al. (2021) and Matindo et al. (2021).

I would like to close with special thank you to our authors for submitting to a brand-new journal, to our diverse, outstanding reviewers for their thoughtful and timely feedback, and to our Editorial Board for the strong support and hard work. I would also like to highlight the pivotal contribution to the “birth” and development of *CRPVBD* during its first year of Drs Dale Seaton (Executive Publisher, Parasitology) and Bilge San (Scientific Managing Editor) - huge thanks for your time and expertise!

We are determined to ensure the success of the editorial process at *CRPVBD* in meeting the high expectations, ambitions, and enthusiasm of the large family of parasitologists and vector biologists. Do get in touch with us with ideas, opinions and suggestions via our Editorial Board page (https://www.journals.elsevier.com/current-research-in-parasitology-and-vector-borne-diseases/editorial-board) and follow journal news on Twitter (@CRPVBD and @AnetKostadinova).

**Declaration of competing interests**

The authors declare that they have no known competing financial interests or personal relationships that could have appeared to influence the work reported in this paper.

**References**

Barker, A., Wigney, D., Child, G., Slapeta, J., 2021. Seroprevalence of *Neospora caninum* in dogs from greater Sydney, Australia unchanged from 1997 to 2019 and worldwide review of adult-onset of canine neosporosis. Curr. Res. Parasitol. Vect. Borne Dis. 1, 100005. https://doi.org/10.1016/j.crpvbd.2020.100005.

Çacal, S.J., Taylor, C.L., Austen, J.M., Banks, P.B., Northover, A.S., Ahlstrom, L.A., Ryan, U.M., Irwin, P.J., Oskam, C.L., 2021. Haemoproteozan surveillance in peri-urban native and introduced wildlife from Australia. Curr. Res. Parasitol. Vect. Borne Dis. 1, 100052. https://doi.org/10.1016/j.crpvbd.2021.100052.

Ellis, J., Ellis, B., Tyler, K., Reichel, M.P., 2021. Recent trends in the use of social media in parasitology and the application of alternative metrics. Curr. Res. Parasitol. Vect. Borne Dis. 1, 100013. https://doi.org/10.1016/j.crpvbd.2021.100013.

Ghasar, A., Abbas, G., King, J., Jacobson, C., Hodget, K.J., El-Hage, C., Beasley, A., Baquier, J., Wilkes, E.J.A., Hurley, J., Cudmore, L., Carrigan, P., Tennant-Brown, B., Nielsen, M.K., Gauci, C.G., Beveridge, J., Jabbar, A., 2021. Comparative studies on faecal egg counting techniques used for the detection of gastrointestinal parasites of equines: A systematic review. Curr. Res. Parasitol. Vect. Borne Dis. 1, 100046. https://doi.org/10.1016/j.crpvbd.2021.100046.

Gomez-Chamorro, A., Hodzić, A., King, K.C., Cabezas-Cruz, A., 2021. Ecological and evolutionary perspectives on tick-borne pathogen co-infections. Curr. Res. Parasitol. Vect. Borne Dis. 1, 100049. https://doi.org/10.1016/j.crpvbd.2021.100049.

Matindo, A.Y., Kalapal, S.N., Katalambula, L.K., Mshri, E.B., Munisi, D.Z., 2021. Bio-larviciding for malaria vector control: Acceptance and associated factors in southern Tanzania. Curr. Res. Parasitol. Vect. Borne Dis. 1, 100038. https://doi.org/10.1016/j.crpvbd.2021.100038.

Nash, R.K., Lambert, B., N’Guesan, R., Ngfuor, C., Rowland, M., Osbrough, R., Moore, S., Tangu, P., Sherrard-Smith, E., Churcher, T.S., 2021. Systematic review of the entomological impact of insecticide-treated nets evaluated using experimental hut trials in Africa. Curr. Res. Parasitol. Vect. Borne Dis. 1, 100047. https://doi.org/10.1016/j.crpvbd.2021.100047.

Nguyen, V.A., Dantas-Torres, F., Otranto, D., 2021. Canine and feline vector-borne diseases of zoonotic concern in Southeast Asia. Curr. Res. Parasitol. Vect. Borne Dis. 1, 100001. https://doi.org/10.1016/j.crpvbd.2020.100001.

Wu-Chuang, A., Hodzić, A., Mateos-Hernández, L., Estrada-Peña, A., Obregon, D., Cabezas-Cruz, A., 2021. Current debates and advances in tick microbiome research. Curr. Res. Parasitol. Vect. Borne Dis. 1, 100036. https://doi.org/10.1016/j.crpvbd.2021.100036.

Aneta Kostadinova

Institute of Biodiversity and Ecosystem Research, Bulgarian Academy of Sciences, Sofia, Bulgaria

E-mail address: aneta.kostadinova@gmail.com.

---

Fig. 2 The relative distribution of published papers across the journal sections.

Fig. 3 The geographical diversity of the corresponding authors at country level.