

# Introduction

As we emerge from the current phase of the COVID-19 pandemic, we are reminded of the critically important role that science has played in the rapid identification of the SARS-CoV-2 pathogen, understanding of COVID-19 pathogenesis, development of effective vaccines, and discovery and rapid deployment of effective therapies against the most ravaging effects of the disease. Despite the best efforts of scientists and policy makers, millions have died, but millions of lives have also been saved. In the West, we are now “living with the virus,” but a new infectious variant might emerge at any time, again threatening lives and the global economy.

The *Annual Review of Animal Biosciences* has played an important role in communicating essential information related to the pandemic by publishing critical reviews on animal coronaviruses. In this volume, Kane, Wong & Gao provide an authoritative review on known animal reservoirs of coronaviruses that infect humans, cross-species transmission, and animal models for infection and pathogenesis. Although the origins and intermediate host(s) of SARS-CoV-2 remain a mystery, evidence for the most likely sources is presented, as well as current information on animal models for studying infection and disease pathogenesis. The review by Tomori & Oluwayelu expands upon these themes for other zoonotic agents. Our journal is pleased to provide factual information for the scientific community and the public to draw their own conclusions. The world can ill afford to be left unprepared for the next pandemic.

Volume 11 also contains fascinating reviews dealing with a range of topics including population genetics and conservation genomics, RNA editing in cephalopods, biotelemetry in marine animals, animal models of human and animal diseases, poaching forensics, indigenous perspectives on animal biosciences, and more. The broad range of topics and high-quality reviews have contributed to the journal's high impact factor and extraordinary rise to first-place ranking in several categories. Our editors and the production staff at *Annual Reviews* deserve our deepest thanks for their commitment to the quality of the reviews published in this journal. We trust you will enjoy Volume 11 and look forward to bringing you the very best reviews across the ever-changing landscape of animal biosciences.

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