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Control of cestode zoonoses in Asia: role of basic and applied science.

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PREFACE

The importance of basic and applied science towards control of cestode zoonoses*

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On a global scale, human cystic and alveolar echinococcoses and cysticercosis due to *Taenia solium* are classed as neglected zoonotic diseases (NZD), due to their high burden of disease which together is greater than 2 million lost DALYs (WHO, 2005, 1010; Budke *et al.* 2006; Craig *et al.* 2007). These cestodes require two mammalian hosts for the completion of their life cycle through natural or anthropogenic mediated

predator-prey systems.

Human taeniasis are caused by the adult stage of three species, *Taenia solium*, *T. saginata* and *T. asiatica* all of which are food- or meat-borne cestodiasis (Ito *et al.* 2003a; Flisser *et al.* 2011). *Taenia solium* is unique, since it is the only one of these three species that can cause human cysticercosis, one of the most potentially lethal helminthiasis contracted from accidental ingestion of eggs of this species (Ito *et al.* 2003a). Animal cysticercosis due to the three human *Taenia* species as well as several other *Taenia* species normally infect domestic and/or wild animals. In developed countries where meat inspection is pronounced and livestock generally raised under strict controls, human taeniasis are uncommon.

In this special issue, we mainly focus on taeniasis/cysticercosis and echinococcosis in developing countries and regions of Eurasia. At first, Ito (2013) based on a 40-years' experience reviews the caveats and advances in immunological and molecular studies of cestode zoonoses. The first topics in this special issue focus on human taeniasis as food-borne infections. They are generally more common in rural areas where under-cooked contaminated meat or viscera are consumed in local communities without meat inspection (Li *et al.* 2013; Wandra *et al.* 2013). Human cysticercosis caused by the ingestion of the eggs of *T. solium* has been considered to be the major causative agent of the late onset epilepsy in developing countries where pork consumption is common (Lightowlers, 2013; Raoul *et al.* 2013). *Taenia solium* is unique, since it causes two different parasitoses in humans through its life-cycle completion: (i) cysticercosis due to the ingestion of eggs with development of cysticerci, mainly in muscles but also, more problematically, in the brain (neurocysticercosis), and (ii) taeniasis due to the ingestion of cysticerci from uncooked pork contaminated with the metacestode (Wandra *et al.*

2013). Pigs may be infected with cysticerci not only of *T. solium* or *T. asiatica* but also other non-human *Taenia* species, such as *T. hydatigena* (Ito, 2013). The occurrence of *T. solium* transmission in a region presents a high risk of humans acquiring accidental cysticercosis, either from self-infection (e.g. adult worm carrier) or from tapeworm carriers living in the same community (Sorvillo *et al.* 1992; Li *et al.* 2013; Wandra *et al.* 2013). Taeniid eggs cannot be differentiated morphologically; therefore immunological and molecular advanced methods are essential for accurate diagnosis and should be combined with the analysis of spatial patterns of distribution for evidence based control (Raoul *et al.* 2013; Sako *et al.* 2013). Cysticercosis due to *T. solium*, has also been classed as a potentially eradicable disease (Schantz *et al.* 1983) for which accurate surveillance is of paramount importance.

Lightowlers (2013) overviews the future aspect on the control of *T. solium* taeniasis/cysticercosis (T/C) based on his over 40 years work. Raoul *et al.* (2013) overview the strategy available for research on T/C. Sako *et al.* (2013) show a new simple method for purification of diagnostic antigens applicable in endemic areas. Yamane *et al.* (2013) show hybrids between *T. saginata* and *T. asiatica* and show additional data showing hybrids between the two species. Li *et al.* (2013) stress the usefulness of self-detection and stool microscopy in community-based mass screening for taeniasis. The last article is by Wandra *et al.* (2013) on the overview of T/C in Indonesia and also stress the usefulness of questionnaire of self-detection of taeniid proglottids.

By contrast, the life cycles of *Echinococcus* species are completed through domestic animals and/or wildlife. In echinococcoses, humans are infected by accidental ingestion of parasite eggs, and are generally a dead-end for the parasite (Macpherson, 1983;

Rausch, 1995). However, echinococcoses caused by metacestodes established in parenteral tissues, mainly the liver and the lungs, are severe and potentially lethal to humans.

Echinococcoses are widespread diseases caused by environmental contamination of parasite eggs by canid definitive hosts such as dogs, foxes and wolves via faeces. Human alveolar echinococcosis (AE) due to *Echinococcus multilocularis* occurs focally in regions of developed and developing countries of the northern hemisphere, while human cystic echinococcosis (CE) due to *E. granulosus* is of greater concern because it has a worldwide distribution (Torgerson, 2013; Said Ali *et al.* 2013; Giraudoux *et al.* 2013a).

Cystic echinococcosis caused by the ingestion of eggs of the dog tapeworm, *E. granulosus* sensu stricto (genotypes G1-G3), has widely been recognized as an endemic disease in pastoral regions. Recent molecular re-evaluation of *E. granulosus* has revealed that *E. granulosus* sensu lato includes 5 different independent species: *E. granulosus* s.s., *E. equinus*, *E. ortleppi*, *E. canadensis*, and *E. felidis* (Nakao *et al.* 2010). Molecular approaches for identification of pathogenic *Echinococcus* species will become more essential for future epidemiological studies. *Echinococcus multilocularis* was originally considered to be mainly distributed in European Alpine countries and in western Alaska half a century ago (Rausch and Fay, 2002), however it has since been found widely in mountainous or upland areas in almost all countries in the holarctic and central regions of Eurasia, and has expanded its range in temperate areas of Europe (Craig *et al.* 2000, 2008; Romig *et al.* 2006; Torgerson *et al.* 2006; Beiromvand *et al.* 2012; Konyaev *et al.* 2012; Combes *et al.* 2012).

The second topics are on taxonomic issues of the genus *Echinococcus*. McManus

(2013) overviews historical remarks on biology and taxonomy of *Echinococcus*. Nakao *et al.* (2013) show how to evaluate *E. canadensis*. Konyaev *et al.* (2013) unveil the recent data on *Echinococcus* spp. and show all four genotypes of *E. multilocularis* and *E. granulosus* sensu stricto, *E. canadensis*, G6, G7 and G10 in Russia. This is the first original report on molecular evaluation of *Echinococcus* spp. from Russia. Ito *et al.* (2013) also describe *E. multilocularis* and *E. canadensis*, G6/7 and G10 from wild canids, especially wolves in Mongolia.

The third topics are on various aspects of transmission ecology and epidemiology of echinococcoses in Eurasia. Giraudoux *et al.* (2013a) present regional types of transmission of *E. multilocularis* and their ecological characteristics in China and Central Asia. Torgerson (2013) overviews the current situation of echinococcoses in Central Asia. Kesteren *et al.* (2013) assess dog demographics, roles of dogs, dog movements and faecal environmental contamination of rural communities of southern Kyrgyzstan, and Moss *et al.* (2013) try to evaluate re-infection patterns of purged dogs on the Tibetan plateau, China. The last article, using data from the French National Registry on human AE, points out the importance of investigating distributions at several scales to better understand their nested clustered structure (Said Ali *et al.* 2013).

There are several common problems for control or eradication of NTDs (including echinococcoses and cysticercosis): 1) major endemic areas of cysticercosis and CE are mainly in developing countries, especially in rural or remote areas where people are living under poor socio-economic conditions, 2) the lack of priority for control of NTDs in developing countries, 3) the lack of reliable data due to the lack of scientifically reliable tools and methods for identifying people in their communities.

In addition however, echinococcosis and cysticercosis/taeniasis are neglected

zoonotic diseases and thus present a greater problem for control because of the necessity to manage or treat domestic animals (dogs, livestock) or wildlife (foxes). This is usually complicated by the lack of communication on surveillance between human and animal health authorities. Therefore, the burden of zoonotic cestodiasis is largely underestimated (Budke *et al.* 2006; WHO, 2010).

Towards control of these cestode zoonoses, we have to clarify which are the risk factors (Lightowlers, 2013; Torgerson, 2013; Kesteren *et al.* 2013; Moss *et al.* 2013) and their distribution in time and space (Raoul *et al.* 2013; Giraudoux *et al.* 2013a). It also requests us how to identify the parasite species (Nakao *et al.* 2013; Konyaev *et al.* 2013; Ito *et al.* 2013; Said Ali *et al.* 2013; Sako *et al.* 2013). This can be done integrating human and animal epidemiology with host behaviour and parasite ecology (Raoul *et al.* 2013). In this symposium, we try to join molecular (McManus, 2013; Nakao *et al.* 2013; Konyaev *et al.* 2013; Ito *et al.* 2013), immunological (Sako *et al.* 2013) and spatial ecology approaches (Raoul *et al.* 2013; Giraudoux *et al.* 2013a; Kesteren *et al.* 2013; Moss *et al.* 2013) in order to provide research based evidence towards control of cestode zoonoses (Danson *et al.* 2006; Giraudoux *et al.* 2006, 2007, 2008, 2013b). One of the most important strategies for efficient control of taeniasis and cysticercosis may be to establish or to introduce real-time detection of patients in the endemic areas themselves (Sako *et al.* 2013; Raoul *et al.* 2013).

In Asia, a series of meetings on Cestode Zoonoses have been organized, especially sponsored by the Japanese Society for the Promotion of Science since 2000 (Ito, 2007). Among them, we have to point out pioneer contributions in China toward control of echinococcoses that have been coordinated through a team of scientists from America, Europe, Australia, and Japan (Andersen *et al.* 1993; Craig *et al.* 2000; Ito *et al.* 2003b,

2006; Schantz *et al.* 2003; Xiao *et al.* 2003, 2005; Mamuti *et al.* 2004, 2007; Heath *et al.* 2005; Li *et al.* 2005, 2006; Bart *et al.* 2006; Giraudoux *et al.* 2013b) as well as the contribution toward control of echinococcoses made by scientists from China (Wen *et al.* 2005) and cysticercosis (Chen *et al.* 2005) as joint project with scientists from Japan (Ito *et al.* 2003b, 2005).

This symposium in Shanghai was launched and co-organized by two of the Guest-Editors, Akira Ito (Japan) and Xiao-Nong Zhou (China), and supported by the Asian Science and Technology Strategic Cooperation Promotion Programs sponsored by the Special Coordination Funds for Promoting Science and Technology, Ministry of Education, Japan (MEXT) (2010-2012), and the national office of the Chinese Center for Disease Control and Prevention.

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