

Guest Editors: Judith Eisen, Zoltan Varga, and Christian Lawrence

We seek manuscripts for a ZEBRAFISH special-issue centered on health management. For this issue, the journal is particularly interested in receiving contributions describing fish facility design and key husbandry procedures related to quarantine, biosafety, health monitoring, pathogen-control, and health status communication protocols.

Expansion in the use of zebrafish and increased exchange of animals between laboratories has many benefits, but also carries risks such as: 1) the inconsistency in methods to deal with virulent disease outbreaks, 2) the risk that chronic, sub-clinical diseases impart uncontrolled variation on research outcomes, 3) the occupational health hazard posed by zoonotic agents, and 4) the increasingly stringent requirements for import and export of fish within and across international borders. Therefore, there is an increasing need for the community to develop and adopt a voluntary, scalable health standard for national and international zebrafish research.

If you have protocols, insight, or data related to health management or pathogen control in aquaculture research facilities, we invite you to submit a manuscript to ZEBRAFISH **before December 1, 2015**. We welcome submissions from commercial aquaculture facilities and any contributions that help broaden the zebrafish research community's perspective on these problems and solutions. Our goal is to create a collection of peer-reviewed publications that can be used to help establish current best practices on which improved, future health management strategies can be built.

Suggested manuscript topics can include:

1. Husbandry and facility design as it relates to the goals of the special issue;
2. Approaches/protocols/methods for quarantine and pathogen control;
3. Descriptions of existing health monitoring programs;
4. Data showing how pathogens affect variation on research subjects;
5. Descriptions of disease outbreaks and steps taken to mitigate them;
6. Incidents of worker exposure to zoonotic agents;
7. Biosafety/occupational health protocols related to fish pathogens.

We anticipate manuscripts in the following formats:

- A) Reviews related to health management in zebrafish research facilities;
- B) Full research papers addressing a critical question in the field or a full description of a fish facility including health programs as well as husbandry elements;
- C) Short communications focusing on a specific aspect outlined above, for example, a quality initial description of a newly established fish facility relating to health management, or a description of a health monitoring program.

All research papers and short communications should include the following sections, as appropriate:

- 1. Brief description of the research program(s) your facility supports**
- 2. Overview of your fish facility including:** facility size; water source and water chemistry; monitored water parameters and acceptable ranges; single or multiple water systems; flow-through/recirculating; filtration systems and UV sterilization.
- 3. Description of key husbandry elements including:** Food/feeding regimen; Rearing conditions; Housing type and density; Animal tracking (databases); Average fish age and humane endpoints
- 4. Detailed description of your health-related program or research including (as appropriate):** Pathogen control (e.g. antibiotics, UV treatment, surface sanitization, other medication or chemicals to kill pathogens); Quarantine program; Health monitoring; Pathogen sampling; Diagnostics; Current or past pathogens, diseases, and/or disease outbreaks in your facility; Strategies to eliminate pathogens/diseases and how they improved facility health; Health program benefits to research program.
- 5. Completed Facility/Husbandry survey**

Zebrafish

Special Issue

HEALTH

Submission Deadline
Dec. 1, 2015

Call for Papers

For a special-issue on facility health programs, we seek manuscripts describing the animal facility, quarantine, biosafety, health monitoring, pathogen-control, and health status communication protocols in Resource Centers and other fish facilities.

Submit a manuscript describing your

- Research program(s)
- Fish facility
- Key husbandry elements
- Health program
- Fish used for health monitoring
- Sampling for pathogens and sampling frequency
- Diagnostic tests performed and sensitivity of assays

By creating a collection of current biosafety strategies and their components in this special issue of ZEBRAFISH, we aim to establish a baseline of current best practices on which improved, future strategies can build.

Importantly, we aim to establish a collection of research program-specific biosafety strategies and approved protocols that can be adopted by laboratories that are developing facility health programs or are in the course of improving existing ones.

