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Meet Dengue's Cousin, Zika

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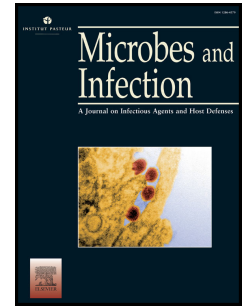
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## EDITORIAL

### Meet Dengue's Cousin, Zika

It's too early to know how alarmed we should be about the spread of Zika virus (ZIKV). The good news is that ZIKV currently presents as a relatively mild and self-limiting illness, with low hospitalization rates [1-7]. The bad news is that ZIKV is spreading rapidly worldwide [1,4,8,9], is challenging to diagnose [1-7, 9-10], and may have effects following the illness including autoimmune diseases like Guillain-Barré syndrome (GBS) [2,4,5,11], other neurological disorders [2,4] and birth defects [12]. The World Health Organization (WHO) has warned its Member States that ZIKV has the potential to place an additional burden on local health systems and recommends development of ZIKV testing capabilities and public education campaigns for prevention of ZIKV [1,8,13].

#### About ZIKV

ZIKV is a mosquito-borne ssRNA flavivirus of the *Flaviviridae* family that includes dengue virus (DENV), West Nile Virus (WNV), Japanese encephalitis and Yellow Fever. ZIKV's closest relative is Spondweni virus. [1,3,6]. Comprehensive genetic

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