

#### Cover image

This art nouveau-inspired image "Beta" is formed from entwined transmission stages (cercariae) of parasites from the *Schistosoma* genus. The 'transmission coefficient'  $\beta$  was chosen to represent this theme issue because of its widespread and longstanding use in both micro- and macroparasite infection models. (Cover image kindly designed by Dr Rhys Jones, Cardiff University, School of Biosciences.)

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