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The Photo Quiz: a Look Back and a Look Forward

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The first Photo Quiz was published in *Journal of Clinical Microbiology* in February 2011. It featured a Gram stain of *Helicobacter fennelliae* isolated from chronic skin lesions of a patient with X-linked agammaglobulinemia (1). The idea for the Photo Quiz had been proposed by Dr. Paul Bourbeau at a meeting of the editors some months before and was met with great enthusiasm. Since then, the Photo Quiz has appeared on the cover of *Journal of Clinical Microbiology* every month: the 100th was published in March of this year (2). During that time, the Photo Quiz has regularly pleased the readers, as evidenced by its ongoing popularity. The most downloaded Photo Quizzes are listed in Table 1. This feature has also grown in complexity. The first several each contained a single image of a stained organism. Now, composites of multiple images are common, often including several pictures of the organism as well as an ancillary physical finding or radiographic image. This month, we are raising the bar by linking a video of a parasite to the answer to a Photo Quiz (3). The success and popularity of this educational feature are due to Dr. Bourbeau's consistent vision, leadership, and excellent judgment, and we thank him for his outstanding work. In July, Dr. Bourbeau completed 10 years as an editor, the longest permitted by ASM Journals policy. One of us, Dr. Erik Munson, is the new editor of the Photo Quiz. Dr. Munson has a long-standing interest in the Photo Quiz: he and colleagues have authored six of them, including the third one published (4). Dr. Bourbeau left us with an ample supply of material for the short term, and so we have decided to briefly suspend the submission of new Photo Quizzes until January 2020.

While the Photo Quiz has grown in complexity, the focus of this feature has not changed. It depends on a high-quality photomicrograph of a pathogen that demonstrates typical, interesting, or even pathognomonic features. Such images may also include those of pertinent plate or tube medium findings. While photographs of physical findings or radiographic images are welcome, they should support pictures of the pathogen, as the audience for the Photo Quiz consists largely of clinical microbiologists and those involved in the education of future clinical microbiologists. Also, the case presentation should be short, including what is needed to understand the image. Per the *Journal of Clinical Microbiology* Instructions to Authors, both the Photo Quiz case presentation and the Photo Quiz answer are limited to 200 to 300 words each. More-complete cases can be submitted for consideration as Brief Case articles.

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TABLE 1 The most-downloaded Photo Quizzes^a

Rank	Title	Organism	Reference
1	A 5-Year-Old Boy with an Unusual Arthritis of the Right Knee	<i>Fusobacterium nucleatum</i>	5
2	A Bacterium Better Known by Surgical Pathologists than by Clinical Microbiologists	<i>Sarcina ventriculi</i>	6
3	A 66-Year-Old Man with Bloodstream Infection and Back Pain	<i>Brucella melitensis</i>	2
4	An Unusual Knee Infection	<i>Histoplasma capsulatum</i>	7
5	Disseminated Necrotic Cutaneous Nodules in a Lung Transplant Recipient	<i>Acanthamoeba</i> species	8

^aDetermined by the number of unique downloads of article HTML pages and PDF files during the 3 months following publication.

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