



## Specialized Metabolite Gene Clusters from Sponge Holobionts

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### Message from the Guest Editor

Dear Colleagues,

Marine sponges now have a history of discovery of natural products with potential pharmaceutical applications. However, in most cases, the actual producer of the natural product in the sponge holobionts (sponge and associated microorganisms) remains unknown. In addition, the genetic machinery encoding for the natural products is generally unknown. The next-generation sequencing revolution has made it possible to discover hundreds of (novel) specialized metabolite gene clusters from one sponge sample. Although it is still difficult to link specialized metabolite gene clusters to the natural products they encode, the gene clusters themselves provide important leads to identify biochemical novelty and deserve prioritization in further development, such as heterologous expression.

Dr. Detmer Sipkema  
*Guest Editor*





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## Message from the Editor-in-Chief

During the past few decades there has been an ever increasing number of novel compounds discovered in the marine environment. This is exemplified by the robust preclinical and clinical pipeline that currently exists for marine natural products. *Marine Drugs* is inviting contributions on new advances in marine biotechnology, pharmacology, chemical ecology, synthetic biology, and genomics approaches related to the discovery of therapeutically relevant marine natural products. Our goal is to share your contribution in a timely fashion and in a manner that will be valued by the scientific community.

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