

Special Issue

Silent but Deadly: Insights into the Relationship Between Bacterial Dormancy and Antibiotic Tolerance

Message from the Guest Editors

All forms of bacterial dormancy, including persistence, tolerance, and the viable but non-culturable (VBNC) state, are increasingly recognized as critical contributors to the clinical failure of antibiotic therapy. Clinically, they underpin recalcitrant, recurrent, and relapsing infections, which impose a substantial burden on healthcare systems. While genetic resistance is a well-established factor in treatment failure, it is now clear that these non-heritable phenotypic adaptations also play a central role in bacterial survival under antibiotic stress. This Special Issue invites contributions that advance our understanding of bacterial dormancy in all its forms. We particularly welcome studies on the detection of dormant bacterial states, including unculturable populations; the development and refinement of diagnostic approaches for identifying latent or quiescent cells; and the elucidation of the physiological and molecular mechanisms underlying dormancy, persistence, and tolerance. By integrating basic, translational, and clinical research, this collection aims to foster novel strategies to detect, characterize, and ultimately eradicate dormant bacterial populations.

Guest Editors

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About the Journal

Message from the Editor-in-Chief

There are very few fields that attract as much attention as scientific endeavor related to antibiotic discovery, use and preservation. The public, patients, scientists, clinicians, policy-makers, NGOs, governments, and supra-governmental organizations are all focusing intensively on it: all are concerned that we use our existing agents more effectively, and develop and evaluate new interventions in time to face emerging challenges for the benefit of present and future generations. We need every discipline to contribute and collaborate: molecular, microbiological, clinical, epidemiological, geographic, economic, social scientific and policy disciplines are all key. *Antibiotics* is a nimble, inclusive and rigorous indexed journal as an enabling platform for all who can contribute to solving the greatest broad concerns of the modern world.

Editor-in-Chief

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