

Special Issue

The Impact of Biodiversity and Water Quality on the Aquatic Ecosystem Health

Message from the Guest Editors

Aquatic biodiversity plays a crucial role in maintaining water ecosystem health and the quality of human life. Unfortunately due to anthropopressure, they are one of the most endangered ecosystems in the world. Anthropogenic impact on aquatic ecosystems can be seen in various aspects and scales like habitat degradation, flow modification, water pollution, overexploitation, and invasion of exotic species. One of the main reasons for a decline in the functionality of aquatic ecosystems is a decrease in habitat diversity caused by channel regulation works. In many cases, they lead to bed incision and homogenization of available habitats. Another disturbance is land use, which affects not only the water quality but also hydrology and habitat structure. The huge problem, especially in developing countries, is receiving watercourses pollution from domestic and industrial point sources, and excessive water nutrient enrichment and other chemicals. Additionally, environmental changes occurring at the global scale, such as climate warming and shift in precipitation and runoff pattern negatively influence biodiversity and ecosystem health.

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Addressing the environmental and public health challenges requires engagement and collaboration among clinicians and public health researchers. Scientific discoveries and advances in this research field play a critical role in providing a rational basis for informed decision-making toward control and prevention of human diseases, especially the illnesses that are induced from environmental exposure to health hazards.

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