

## Special Issue

# Damage to Plants and Microorganisms Caused by Heavy Metal Toxicity

### Message from the Guest Editor

Heavy metal contamination poses a critical threat to ecosystems and agricultural productivity, with metals such as cadmium, lead, arsenic, and mercury disrupting biological processes in plants and microorganisms. This Special Issue aims to explore the molecular, physiological, and ecological impacts of heavy metal toxicity, focusing on mechanisms of damage, adaptive responses, and remediation strategies. The Special Issue seeks to compile cutting-edge research on the following: Molecular Mechanisms: DNA damage repair pathways (e.g., homologous recombination, base excision repair) in plants and microbes under metal stress; Physiological Adaptations: Antioxidant defense systems, metal chelation (e.g., phytochelatins, metallothioneins), and microbial detoxification enzymes (e.g., oxidoreductases); Ecological Interactions: Impacts on plant-microbe symbioses (e.g., mycorrhizae, rhizobia) and soil microbial diversity; Bioremediation: Novel approaches leveraging metal-tolerant plants (phytoremediation) or engineered microbial consortia for soil and water restoration. All related content focuses on the molecular level.

### Guest Editor

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### Deadline for manuscript submissions

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The International Journal of Molecular Sciences (*IJMS*, ISSN 1422-0067) is an open access journal, which was established in 2000. The journal aims to provide a forum for scholarly research on a range of topics, including biochemistry, molecular and cell biology, molecular biophysics, molecular medicine, and all aspects of molecular research in chemistry. *IJMS* publishes both original research and review articles, and regularly publishes special issues to highlight advances at the cutting edge of research. We invite you to read recent articles published in *IJMS* and consider publishing your next paper with us.

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