

# Special Issue

## Bacterial Toxins and Cancer

### Message from the Guest Editors

There is growing evidence that bacterial chronic infections may contribute significantly to carcinogenesis. Protein toxins are among the main virulence factors produced by pathogenic bacteria and favor their colonization and diffusion in the host, disturbing the host's balance, thus causing disease. Toxins can manipulate crucial host cellular processes, such as protein synthesis, cytoskeletal organization, intracellular signaling pathways, and vesicle trafficking. Thanks to their highly specific enzymatic activity on molecular targets, some bacterial toxins have represented useful tools for molecular biology studies and, in recent years, have been considered for medical applications. On the other hand, however, the pro-carcinogenic potential of chronic exposure to toxin-producing pathogenic bacteria is emerging as a new frontier in studies focused on the infectious cause of cancer.

In this Special Issue, emphasis will be placed on the link between bacterial protein toxins and cancer, in an attempt to highlight and demonstrate whether there is a correlation between these virulence factors and the development and progression of cancer.

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### Guest Editors

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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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