

Special Issue

Peptide Antimicrobial Agents

Message from the Guest Editors

The ever-increasing episodes of antibiotic resistance in bacteria and other microorganisms pose a serious threat to human health. Antimicrobial peptides (AMPs) are ribosomally synthesized natural antibiotics produced by nearly all organisms, from bacteria to plants and animals. AMPs are the first line of innate defense present in most living organisms, from bacteria to humans, against invading pathogens. Certain AMPs show an exceptionally broad spectrum of activity against Gram-negative and Gram-positive bacteria and fungi as well as viruses and parasites. Therefore, AMPs or their derivatives may represent potentially new classes of antimicrobial drugs. In this context, antimicrobial peptides (AMPs) have emerged as promising alternatives owing to their unique structural and functional characteristics. They have various modes of action; this diversity in the activity of the AMPs lead to the very-slow or negligible development of resistance against them in contrast to conventional antibiotics, which generally have a fixed intracellular target. This has led to significant advances in the area of AMP research in the last few decades for potential drugs of the future.

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