Special Issue

Artemisinin—A Truly Exceptional Natural Compound and New Synthetic Bioactive Derivatives

Message from the Guest Editor

Artemisinin is “a magic drug” discovered from traditional Chinese medicine. The citation comes from Youyou Tu from the Artemisinin Research Center in Beijing. A synthetic chemist also agrees with “magic”, because the structure of this natural sesquiterpene peroxide combining a cyclic peroxide with a peracetal structure (1,2,4-trioxane) with an acetal and a lactone group that makes the molecules look highly hydrolysis-labile and redox-reactive. Following the discovery of the remarkable anti-Malaria properties of this peroxide, several derivatives with improved pharmakinetic properties were developed, especially the water-soluble artesunic acid and the reduced compounds dihydroartemisinin (DHA) and the ethers made thereof, artemether and artether.

The present Special Issue intends to collect new synthetic approaches to artemisinine derivatives, conjugates and dyads, peroxidic artemisinine model compounds with similar activity profiles or new peroxides that were synthesized .

Guest Editor

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As the premier open access journal dedicated to molecular chemistry, now in its 30th year of publication, the papers published in *Molecules* span from classical synthetic methodology to natural product isolation and characterization, as well as physicochemical studies and the applications of these molecules as pharmaceuticals, catalysts, and novel materials. Pushing the boundaries of the discipline, we invite papers on all major fields of molecular chemistry and multidisciplinary topics bridging chemistry with biology, physics, and materials science, as well as timely reviews and topical issues on cutting-edge fields in all of these areas.

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