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The Two-Fold Role of Uremic Retention Molecules as Toxins and Signaling Molecules

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Message from the Guest Editors

While nephrologists have been conditioned to think in terms of uremic “toxins”, this traditional view is challenged by a number of observations. First, most uremic toxins and uremic solutes are present in the body in the absence of kidney dysfunction. In addition to OATs, there are transporters of these small molecules in many non-renal tissues. One possibility, consistent with a growing amount of biochemical and molecular data, is that so-called uremic toxins, while harmful when in excess in the setting of kidney failure, might have other important “non-toxic” roles in normal biology, including metabolism, signaling, regulating redox state, and gut microbiome population dynamics.

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Message from the Editor-in-Chief

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