



**toxins**



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## Clostridioides difficile Toxins and Virulence Factors

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### Message from the Guest Editor

*Clostridioides* infection (CDI) is a major public health problem worldwide. *C. difficile* is responsible for 10%–25% of cases of antibiotic-associated diarrhea, 50%–75% of antibiotic-associated colitis, and 90%–100% of pseudomembranous colitis. Morbidity and mortality resulting from CDI-associated diseases have also increased significantly over the past ten years, making *C. difficile* one of the most important emerging antibiotic-associated diarrheagenic pathogens in the world. As a result, the U. S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention has designated *C. difficile* as an urgent threat. The risk for CDI increases with broad-spectrum antibiotics use, which disrupts the native gut microbiota, allowing *C. difficile* to proliferate. Other CDI-associated risk factors include old age, use of gastric acid-suppressing drugs, comorbidities, immunodeficiency, and inflammatory bowel disease. *C. difficile* virulence is largely dependent on the production of the toxins which are directly responsible for the disease. This Special Issue will cover recent findings on *C. difficile* toxins, as well as important virulence factors involved in its pathogenesis.



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# Special Issue



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## Editor-in-Chief

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## Message from the Editor-in-Chief

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