



Ribosome Inactivating Toxins

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Message from the Guest Editors

Dear Colleagues,

Ribosome inactivating proteins (RIPs) form a vast family of hundreds of toxins from plants, fungi, algae and bacteria. RIP activities have also been detected in animal tissues.

Tremendous progress has been made in their detection, identification and characterization. However, the pathophysiology of these intoxications seem much more complicated than being solely linked to cell death and are still far from being understood. There are no commercially available products to specifically prevent or block RIP action.

RIPs have been engineered into immunotoxins. Numerous clinical trials have shown great promise, as well as the difficulties in developing such therapies to destroy cancer cells.

This Special Issue of *Toxins* presents the most recent data on all the aspects of RIPs: new RIPs, structure, function, mechanism of action, pathophysiology, anti-RIP drug development and RIP engineering into anticancer treatments.

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Message from the Editor-in-Chief

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