



Shiga Toxin: Occurrence, Pathogenicity, Detection and Therapies

Guest Editor:

Dr. Indira Kudva

Food Safety Enteric Pathogens
Research Unit, National Animal
Disease Center, United States
Department of Agriculture
(USDA), Ames, IA 50010, USA

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Message from the Guest Editor

Shiga toxin-producing *Escherichia coli* (STEC) are the third leading cause of foodborne illness after *Campylobacter* and *Salmonella*, and implicated in 265,000 illnesses in the US and 2.8M infections globally. Following infection, some individuals remain asymptomatic, while others develop watery or bloody diarrhea that may progress to fatal secondary sequelae. Virulence factors such as the phage-encoded Shiga toxins (Stx), plasmid-encoded hemolysin and various adherence factors including intimin, encoded by the *eae* gene on the pathogenicity-island Locus of Enterocyte Effacement, play a significant role in human disease. Stx contribute towards STEC pathogenicity in humans through niche establishment, nutrient acquisition, immune response modulation/evasion and targeted cell pathology.

In this SI, we seek to provide a comprehensive collection of publications on Stx in the context of (i) toxin structure, acquisition, evolution, variants, mode of action, (ii) host-pathogen interaction-structural and immune, (iii) disease prediction and risk assessment, (iv) toxin detection and targeted therapies. Review and research papers describing established and novel concepts are welcome.





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Editor-in-Chief

Prof. Dr. Jay Fox

Department of Microbiology,
University of Virginia,
Charlottesville, VA, USA

Message from the Editor-in-Chief

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Toxins Editorial Office
MDPI, Grosspeteranlage 5
4052 Basel, Switzerland

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