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Application of Venom Phospholipase in the Treatment of Diseases

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Message from the Guest Editor

Venom phospholipases consist of hydrolase classes that catalyze the hydrolysis of acyl esters and phosphate esters on phospholipids. The phospholipases A_2s are among the most studied ones, as they have been known for over a century from research on snake and bee venom, and many mechanistic studies have been carried out on their numerous isoforms. Besides phospholipase A_2 of snake and bee venom, many kinds of phospholipases have been identified in venoms. For example, the venoms of Australian elapid snake, cobra, and brown spider contain phospholipase B, C, and D, respectively. Phospholipase-like proteins with toxic properties, yet which lack a functional catalytic site, are also found in venoms.

Phospholipases, major digestive enzymes present in venoms, play a critical role in many physiological processes including the generation and aggregation of numerous signaling lipids. In addition, they seem to affect various diseases in some manner. This Special Issue aims to provide a comprehensive view on venom phospholipases, including their characterization, function, and mechanism of action in the treatment of various diseases.

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Message from the Editor-in-Chief

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