Special Issue

Advances in Venom Immunology and Allergy

Message from the Guest Editors

Allergy to Hymenoptera venom is a life-threatening condition, often going underdiagnosed because of the general population's poor knowledge concerning the condition and many sanitary actors. It has been established that IgE-mediated hypersensitivity is triggered by allergenic proteins in the venom of social bees and wasps, resulting in the massive liberation of acute inflammatory mediators. These produce an increased capillary permeability, extravasation and other damage. In recent years, some allergenic proteins from Apis mellifera, Bombus Terrestris, and some species of wasps belonging to Vespula, Vespa, Dolichovespula and Polistes genera have been characterized. A variable degree of molecular similarities among proteins could be responsible for the cross-reactivity and presence of glycosylated radicals. Up till now, the most critical risk factor for developing an allergy to Hymenoptera venom appeared to be the high degree of exposure of people working in beekeeping, trucking and farming, in addition to people frequent performing outdoor activities. Venom immunotherapy is the only way to redirect the failure of immune tolerance underlying venom-allergic individuals.

Guest Editors

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Toxinology is an incredibly diverse area of study, ranging from field surveys of environmental toxins to the study of toxin action at the molecular level. The editorial board and staff of *Toxins* are dedicated to providing a timely, peer-reviewed outlet for exciting, innovative primary research articles and concise, informative reviews from investigators in the myriad of disciplines contributing to our knowledge on toxins. We are committed to meeting the needs of the toxin research community by offering useful and timely reviews of all manuscripts submitted. Please consider *Toxins* when submitting your work for publication.

Editor-in-Chief

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