Special Issue

Mycotoxin Biomarkers: Innovation and Utility

Message from the Guest Editors

The early epidemiology studies of aflatoxin exposure and liver cancer provided conflicting results. By the late 1980s, the need for a biomarker was apparent, notably to understand the attributable risk of disease. The pioneering work by Professors Chris Wild and John Groopman provided useful information on aflatoxin exposure by measuring the aflatoxin–lysine adduct in serum samples. This led to the production of the seminal papers on liver cancer in relation to aflatoxin exposure in Southern China. Reliable biomarkers of exposure for the other agriculturally important mycotoxins, namely fumonisin B1, deoxynivalenol, zearalenone and ochratoxin A, remain a challenge. Barriers include an understanding of the toxicokinetics of these four toxins in humans across a range of exposures and the impact of nutrition on interpreting the data. Further challenges include the availibilty and purity of isotopically labelled standards and improvement in the sensitivity of the analytical methods to allow smaller samples to be collected from study participants.

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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.

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