Special Issue

Biological Activities of Ribosome-Inactivating Proteins

Message from the Guest Editors

The exact biological role that RIPs play remains unknown, but it is thought to represent a defense mechanism of a plant against pathogens and predators. As a consequence of their enzymatic action, RIPs display several biological activities, including antiviral, antibacterial, antifungal, antifeedant, and antiproliferative activities, which may be relevant to their functions and biotechnological applications. The most promising applications of RIPs in experimental medicine, especially in anticancer therapy, are related to their use as a component of immunotoxins, in which the RIP is linked to antibodies that mediate their binding and internalization by malignant cells. In agriculture, RIPs have been shown to increase resistance against viruses, fungi, and insects in transgenic plants. The focus of this Special Issue of *Toxins* will be on the biological activities of RIPs that may be relevant to their biological functions and biotechnological applications, as well as on the elucidation of the structure-activity relationships of these proteins.

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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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