

Special Issue

Clostridioides difficile Toxins and Virulence Factors

Message from the Guest Editor

Clostridioides infection (CDI) is a major public health problem worldwide. *C. difficile* is responsible for 10%–25% of cases of antibiotic-associated diarrhea, 50%–75% of antibiotic-associated colitis, and 90%–100% of pseudomembranous colitis. Morbidity and mortality resulting from CDI-associated diseases have also increased significantly over the past ten years, making *C. difficile* one of the most important emerging antibiotic-associated diarrheagenic pathogens in the world. As a result, the U. S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention has designated *C. difficile* as an urgent threat. The risk for CDI increases with broad-spectrum antibiotics use, which disrupts the native gut microbiota, allowing *C. difficile* to proliferate. Other CDI-associated risk factors include old age, use of gastric acid-suppressing drugs, comorbidities, immunodeficiency, and inflammatory bowel disease. *C. difficile* virulence is largely dependent on the production of the toxins which are directly responsible for the disease. This Special Issue will cover recent findings on *C. difficile* toxins, as well as important virulence factors involved in its pathogenesis.

Guest Editor

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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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