

Special Issue

Engineered Botulinum Neurotoxins for Novel Biomedical Applications

Message from the Guest Editors

Botulinum neurotoxins (BoNTs) are some of the most potent known neurotoxins and the causative agents of the neuroparalytic disease botulism. The BoNTs share a unique, common modular structure consisting of three functional domains that facilitate the presynaptic binding, neuronal uptake, intracellular delivery, and catalytic activity of the toxin. The receptor-binding domain (RBD) binds ectoreceptors on peripheral cholinergic neurons and is endocytosed within early endocytotic vesicles. Within the endosome, the BoNTs are believed to undergo a conformational change allowing the translocation domain (HN) to form a transmembrane pore through which the light chain (LC) is extruded into the cytosol. Once in the cytosol, the LC cleaves SNARE proteins critical for the vesicular trafficking of neurotransmitters, eliciting the descending, bilateral paralysis that is a hallmark of botulism.

Guest Editors

Dr. Robert P. Webb

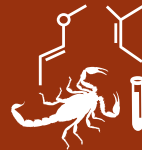
Office of Research and Development, Center for Environmental Solutions and Emergency Response, Environmental Protection Agency, Washington, DC 8101R, USA

Dr. Patrick Michael McNutt

Wake Forest Institute for Regenerative Medicine, Wake Forest University Health Sciences, Winston-Salem, NC 27101, USA

Deadline for manuscript submissions

closed (31 March 2022)



Toxins

an Open Access Journal
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Impact Factor 4.0
CiteScore 8.3
Indexed in PubMed



mdpi.com/si/90590

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Editorial Office
MDPI, Grosspeteranlage 5
4052 Basel, Switzerland
Tel: +41 61 683 77 34
toxins@mdpi.com

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Prof. Dr. Jay Fox

Department of Microbiology, University of Virginia, Charlottesville, VA,
USA

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