Special Issue

Advances in Ricin Antitoxins: From Intoxication to Diagnosis and Treatment

Message from the Guest Editors

Ricin is a potent (type 2) ribosome-inactivating protein toxin produced in the seeds of the caster bean plant *Ricinus communis*. Accidental and/or intentional exposure to the toxin can have serious consequences for the health and the survival of both humans and animals. This is a consequence of the potency of the toxin along with the prevalence of caster beans in the environment (i.e., increasing the likelihood of exposure). The identification of ricin intoxication in a clinical setting remains very challenging and is further complicated by a delayed onset of symptoms. Additionally, there is a current lack of licensed medical interventions, with supportive therapy representing the main clinical option. Nevertheless, a number of new small molecule inhibitors rationally developed using structural-functional analysis and that affect the intracellular trafficking of the toxin are alternative approaches to the more traditional antibody-based molecules which have also recently demonstrated promise as candidate countermeasures for the treatment of ricin exposure in animal models. **Clicking to Find More Detailed Information**

Guest Editors

Prof. Dr. Graeme C. Clark
Defence Science and Technology Laboratory, Porton Down SP4 0JQ, UK

Dr. Damien Chong
Defence Science and Technology Group, Fishermans Bend, VIC 3207, Australia

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

mdpi.com/journal/toxins

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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

Prof. Dr. Jay Fox
Department of Microbiology, University of Virginia, Charlottesville, VA, USA

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