Special Issue

Factors Governing the Persistence, Infection, Virulence and Treatment of Shiga Toxin-Encoding E. coli (STEC)

Message from the Guest Editor

Shiga toxins (Stx) are the main virulence factor of a group of Shiga toxin-encoding E. coli (STEC) strains that cause severe human diseases. These toxins are encoded by prophages present in all STEC. Stx synthesis and release and therefore STEC-mediated disease require activation of prophage growth. Alarmingly, the incidence of Shiga toxin-related illness is increasing. In addition to contaminated food, STEC outbreaks are increasingly associated with environmental contamination of water. This Special Issue will focus on both deducing the factors that drive the increasing incidence of STEC infection and providing insight into new prevention and treatment regimes. This issue will include studies of bacterial and phage factors that mediate environmental persistence, increased human infection, increased STEC virulence, and how these factors can be exploited to provide new strategies to combat STEC infection.

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.

Editor-in-Chief

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