



## Plastic Pollution: Environmental Occurrence, Public Health and Ecotoxicological Effects

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### Message from the Guest Editors

Dear Colleagues,

Due to their malleability, durability, versatility, and low cost, plastic has been employed since the beginning of the 20th century in an uncontrolled manner for the manufacture and packaging of a wide range of products. According to the United Nations Environmental Program, 9.2 billion tons of plastic was produced from 1950 to 2017, usually ending up in environmental domains, including soils, sediments, air, surficial waters (river, lake, ocean, and glacier), and groundwater, from where they have been taken up by biota. Because of this ubiquity, as well as their slow rates of degradation, toxicity, and interaction with chemical contaminants, plastics, and in particular microplastics, are considered as emerging pollutants. Plastic affects natural processes and the health of ecosystems, but also has an impact on human health, the production and quality of food, and the visual quality of landscape in recreational sites, generating environmental, social, and economic problems. Research focused on this problem has increased in the last decade; however, much remains to be known. This SI aims to publish recent advances in several aspects on plastic pollution.





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## Message from the Editor-in-Chief

Addressing the environmental and public health challenges requires engagement and collaboration among clinicians and public health researchers. Discovery and advances in this research field play a critical role in providing a scientific basis for decision-making toward control and prevention of human diseases, especially the illnesses that are induced from environmental exposure to health hazards. *IJERPH* provides a forum for discussion of discoveries and knowledge in these multidisciplinary fields. Please consider publishing your research in this high quality, peer-reviewed, open access journal.

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