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Pharmaceuticals in the Aquatic Environment: Monitoring, Impacts and Ecological Risk

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Message from the Guest Editor

Pharmaceuticals are essential for human and animal health. However, after their use, these compounds are generally rapidly excreted, mainly in faeces and urine, as water-soluble metabolites. These often reach wastewater treatment plants (WWTPs), where, in addition to not being eradicated, some become active compounds with harmful effects on aquatic species and ecosystems. Moreover, unused pharmaceuticals can cause a severe risk if they reach the environment due to improper disposal.

Ultimately, parental compounds or their metabolites may affect humans and domestic animals via drinking water and the ingestion of its byproducts in meat, animal feed, and dairy plant crops, among others. This aspect may cause undesirable health issues for humans and animals.

In this Special Issue, we aim to collate studies referring to the environmental presence and impact of pharmaceuticals, such as hormones, antibiotics, antidepressants, anti-inflammatories and analgesics, beta-blockers, and anticancer medications, ideally offering a global panorama of the contamination of aquatic abiotic and biotic matrices and its impacts on both animal and human health.



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Special Issue



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Message from the Editor-in-Chief

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