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Recent Advances in Microcystins

Guest Editor:

Prof. Dr. Fei Yang
1. School of Public Health, University of South China, Hengyang 421001, China
2. Xiangya School of Public Health, Central South University, Changsha 410078, China

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Message from the Guest Editor

In recent decades, harmful cyanobacterial blooms and their secondary metabolites cyanotoxins have occurred all over the world because of global warming and water eutrophication. Microcystins widely distributed in freshwater are the common and most toxic cyanotoxins, which have caused great damage to aquatic ecosystems and threatened public health. To protect humans and animals from the toxicity of MC-LR, The World Health Organization (WHO) stipulated that the concentration of MC-LR in drinking water cannot exceed 1 μg/L. MC-LR can enter the intestine, transport through the blood stream, and distribute into various organs, so it is very important to investigate the toxic effect and mechanisms of microcystins against the liver, brain, kidney, lung, heart, and reproductive system. Moreover, how to control and remove MCs is a matter of great urgency worldwide. The utilization of bacteria is a promising approach to degrade and remove MC from waterbodies owing to its high efficiency, low cost, and environmental friendliness. Nonetheless, obtaining MC-degrading bacteria and understanding their MC-degrading mechanisms are great challenges.

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Editor-in-Chief

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

Message from the Editor-in-Chief

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Contact Us

Toxins Editorial Office
MDPI, Grosspeteranlage 5
4052 Basel, Switzerland

Tel: +41 61 683 77 34
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