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Foodborne Intoxications and Toxicoinfections—Major Pathogens and Challenges

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Message from the Guest Editors

Microbial organisms producing toxins encountered in food are a major threat to human health and lead to substantial economic losses. While toxins produced by organisms such as *Staphylococcus, Bacillus* and *Clostridium* have been the focus of scientific research for decades, major questions remain unanswered. Major advances in whole genome sequencing have led to paradigm shifts and have amongst others initiated a collapse of traditional taxonomy-driven risk assessment in the *Bacillus cereus* group. While *e.g. Bacillus thuringiensis* and *Clostridium difficile* have been discussed as potential causative organisms in outbreaks, species traditionally exclusively associated with high toxicity such as *Bacillus cytotoxicus* have been shown to exhibit strong strain-specific variation in toxin production. The food matrix itself has a strong impact on the formation and stability of toxins. The lack of accurate and robust high-throughput detection and characterization methods as well as the broad variety of food matrices has limited the data available to date—a situation that is further exacerbated by wide-spread underreporting.

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Message from the Editor-in-Chief

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.

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