



toxins



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

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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. Alarming, 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.

Prof. Gerald B. Koudelka

Guest Editor



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Message from the Editor-in-Chief

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