



Know Your Enemy: Improved Understanding, Detection, Control, and Therapy for Shiga Toxin-Producing *Escherichia coli* Infection

Guest Editors:

Prof. Dr. Tim A. McAllister

Dr. Flemming Scheutz

Prof. Dr. Linda Chui

Dr. Chad R. Laing

Dr. Nicole Van De Kar

Dr. Kim Stanford

Dr. Patricia Griffin

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Message from the Guest Editors

Verotoxigenic *Escherichia coli* (VTEC), also called Shiga toxin-producing *Escherichia coli* (STEC), are major pathogens transmitted by food, water, animals and their environment, and directly from one person to another. They typically cause diarrheal illness but can cause severe systemic disease, particularly in children and the elderly. Virulence is associated with a type III secretion system, which enables injection of bacterial effector proteins into host cells. In addition, Shiga toxins damage the kidneys. No specific treatment is available for STEC infection. A better understanding of the pathogenesis and epidemiology of STEC infection is needed. This includes improved detection, understanding of reservoirs, control and detection in the food chain, and an understanding of STEC ecology from a One Health perspective. For this Issue, we invite you to submit reviews or original articles related to STEC detection, pathogenesis, epidemiology, or ecology that reflects the scientific community's continued efforts to prevent and ameliorate STEC infections.

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Editor-in-Chief

Dr. Nico Jehmlich

Department of Molecular
Systems Biology, UFZ-Helmholtz
Centre for Environmental
Research, 04318 Leipzig,
Germany

Message from the Editor-in-Chief

"Microorganism" merges the idea of the very small with the idea of the evolving reproducing organism is a unifying principle for the discipline of microbiology. Our journal recognizes the broadly diverse yet connected nature of microorganisms and provides an advanced publishing forum for original articles from scientists involved in high-quality basic and applied research on any prokaryotic or eukaryotic microorganism, and for research on the ecology, genomics and evolution of microbial communities as well as that exploring cultured microorganisms in the laboratory.

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Contact Us

Microorganisms Editorial Office
MDPI, St. Alban-Anlage 66
4052 Basel, Switzerland

Tel: +41 61 683 77 34
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