



The Two-Fold Role of Uremic Retention Molecules as Toxins and Signaling Molecules

Guest Editors:

Prof. Dr. Jerome Lowenstein

Renal Division, Department of
Medicine, New York University
Medical Center, 550 First Avenue,
New York, NY 10016, USA

Prof. Dr. Björn Meijers

1. Laboratory of Nephrology,
Department of Immunology and
Microbiology, KU Leuven—
University of Leuven, B-3000
Leuven, Belgium;
2. Department of Nephrology and
Renal Transplantation, University
Hospitals Leuven, B-3000 Leuven,
Belgium

Message from the Guest Editors

While nephrologists have been conditioned to think in terms of uremic “toxins”, this traditional view is challenged by a number of observations. First, most uremic toxins and uremic solutes are present in the body in the absence of kidney dysfunction. In addition to OATs, there are transporters of these small molecules in many non-renal tissues. One possibility, consistent with a growing amount of biochemical and molecular data, is that so-called uremic toxins, while harmful when in excess in the setting of kidney failure, might have other important “non-toxic” roles in normal biology, including metabolism, signaling, regulating redox state, and gut microbiome population dynamics.

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Prof. Dr. Jay Fox

Department of Microbiology,
University of Virginia,
Charlottesville, VA, USA

Message from the Editor-in-Chief

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Toxins Editorial Office
MDPI, St. Alban-Anlage 66
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