



## Clostridioides difficile Toxins and Virulence Factors

Guest Editor:

**Prof. Dr. Charles Darkoh**

Center for Infectious Diseases,  
Department of Epidemiology,  
Human Genetics &  
Environmental Sciences, School  
of Public Health, The University  
of Texas Health Science Center at  
Houston.

Charles.darkoh@uth.tmc.edu

Deadline for manuscript  
submissions:

**31 January 2022**

### Message from the Guest Editor

*Clostridioides* infection (CDI) is a major public health problem worldwide. *C. difficile* is responsible for 10%–25% of cases of antibiotic-associated diarrhea, 50%–75% of antibiotic-associated colitis, and 90%–100% of pseudomembranous colitis. Morbidity and mortality resulting from CDI-associated diseases have also increased significantly over the past ten years, making *C. difficile* one of the most important emerging antibiotic-associated diarrheagenic pathogens in the world. As a result, the U. S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention has designated *C. difficile* as an urgent threat. The risk for CDI increases with broad-spectrum antibiotics use, which disrupts the native gut microbiota, allowing *C. difficile* to proliferate. Other CDI-associated risk factors include old age, use of gastric acid-suppressing drugs, comorbidities, immunodeficiency, and inflammatory bowel disease. *C. difficile* virulence is largely dependent on the production of the toxins which are directly responsible for the disease. This Special Issue will cover recent findings on *C. difficile* toxins, as well as important virulence factors involved in its pathogenesis.





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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*  
MDPI, St. Alban-Anlage 66  
4052 Basel, Switzerland

Tel: +41 61 683 77 34  
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