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Animal Venoms and Their Components: Molecular Mechanisms of Action

Guest Editor:

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Message from the Guest Editor

Animal venoms comprise numerous toxins, which, in turn, comprise peptides and proteins. In prey, these toxins affect various vitally important systems that may result in severe illness or death. During evolution, toxins acquired the ability to bind selectively and with high affinity to biological targets in organisms. However, at present, not all toxin targets have been identified, and not all the molecular mechanisms underlying the effects of toxins are understood. This understanding is very important for the efficient treatment of envenomation, which still continues to be a significant problem. On the other hand, their high selectivity and efficiency make toxins valuable molecular tools for fundamental research. Moreover, toxins with known mechanisms of action may serve as templates for drug development. All this suggests that studying the molecular mechanisms of action of animal venoms and their toxins is a very challenging but important task. The aim of this Special Issue of *Toxins* is to present a modern understanding of the various aspects of the molecular mechanisms underlying the action of animal venoms and their components.

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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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