
Preface

The interest of investigators across a broad spectrum of scientific disciplines has been steadily stimulated by the field of bacterial toxin research, an area that makes use of a large variety of biological, chemical, physicochemical, and medically oriented approaches. Researchers studying bacterial toxins need to be acquainted with all these disciplines in order to work effectively in the field. To date, there has been no published collection offering detailed descriptions of the techniques and methods needed by researchers operating across the field's diverse areas. The present volume *Bacterial Toxins: Methods and Protocols*, is intended to fill this gap.

Bacterial Toxins: Methods and Protocols consists of two sections: one on protein toxins (15 chapters) and one on endotoxins (5 chapters). Each section is introduced by an overview article (Chapters 1 and 16). The protocols collected represent state-of-the-art techniques that each have high impact on future bacterial toxin research. All methods are described by authors who have regularly been using the protocol in their own laboratories. Included in each chapter is a brief introduction to the method being described.

Since the goal of the book is to outline the practical steps necessary for successful application of the methods, the major part of each chapter provides a step-by-step description of the method treated. Each chapter also possesses a Notes section, which deals with difficulties that may arise when using the method, and with the modifications and limitations of the technique. In sum, our volume, *Bacterial Toxins: Methods and Protocols* should prove useful to a broad spectrum of researchers, including those without any previous experience with a particular technique.

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