
Preface

In the year 2000, a first methods collection entitled *Bacterial Toxins: Methods and Protocols* was published which contained 20 chapters on protein toxins and endotoxin from bacteria and cyanobacteria. Then, in 2011, a next such collection was published, entitled *Microbial Toxins: Methods and Protocols*, which included both, protocols on (cyano)bacterial and mold fungus toxins, with some focus on aflatoxins. In both cases, the idea was to support researchers of various scientific disciplines with detailed descriptions of state-of-the-art protocols and, since the books turned out to be quite successful, it is quite obvious that this aim could be achieved. Based on this success, a second volume entitled *Microbial Toxins: Methods and Protocols* is presented now which contains protocols on (cyano)bacterial and mold fungus toxins, with a rather strong focus on Gram-negative endotoxins (lipopolysaccharides).

The interest of researchers across a broad spectrum of scientific disciplines in the field of microbial toxins is clearly unbroken. As many other fields do, this field makes use of a broad variety of biological, chemical, physical, and medical approaches, and researchers dealing with any microbial toxin should be familiar with various techniques from all these disciplines. It is our hope that the book *Microbial Toxins: Methods and Protocols, Second Edition* can strongly support researchers here.

Microbial Toxins: Methods and Protocols, Second Edition comprises 17 chapters presenting state-of-the-art techniques that are described by authors who have regularly been using the protocol in their own laboratories. Each chapter begins with a brief introduction to the method which is followed by a step-by-step description of the particular method. Also, and importantly, all chapters possess a Notes section in which e.g. difficulties, modifications and limitations of the techniques are exemplified. Taken together, our volume should prove useful to many scientists, including those without any previous experience with a particular technique.

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