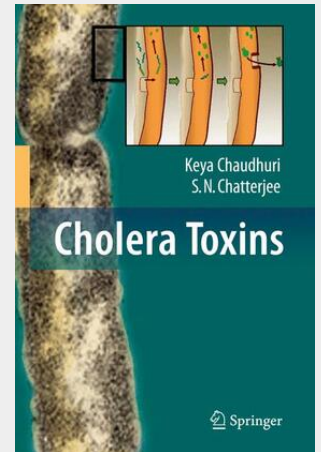


Cholera Toxins

To start with, we feel that we should explain why the book has been entitled Cholera Toxins. In fact, the enterotoxin secreted by *Vibrio cholerae*, which is primarily responsible for causation of the disease, is conventionally known as or referred to as cholera toxin, or CT. By using the word "toxins" (in its plural form), we wanted to cover all of the different types of toxins—and not just CT—produced by *V. cholerae*. We could have used the title Toxins of *Vibrio cholerae*, but we believe that Cholera Toxins is simpler and equally as expressive. However, due to its relative importance, the story of CT covers most of this book. Also, compared to all other toxins of *V. cholerae*, CT has been investigated more extensively. This book was jointly written by us. It is not a multi-author book in which each expert writes one chapter. In that respect our task is harder. On the other hand, it has given us the unique opportunity to present the entire subject in the way that we conceived it. Besides, our objective is to cater to the needs of not only active research scientists but also students from different disciplines—microbiology, molecular physiology and pharmacology, basic medicines, etc.—and as such, we have attempted to present the subject in a way that will be appreciated by general readers. Further, we have provided some information that students and predoctoral researchers may find useful at the end of the book.

Vibrio cholerae, the causative organism of the disease Cholera, colonizes the small intestine and produces several different toxins among which the enterotoxin, or more widely known as cholera toxin (CT), happens to be the major virulence determinant that is responsible for the diarrheal syndrome. This book provides for the first time comprehensive and up-to-date information about all the toxins of *Vibrio cholerae*, their physical and chemical structures, their biosynthesis and its genetic regulation, their physiology, the molecular biology of their interactions with the host as well as their role in the development of an appropriate and effective cholera vaccine. It also offers relevant and necessary background information on the basic biology of the *Vibrio cholerae* cell and cholera bacteriophages.



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