Environmental Contamination: Causes and Solutions
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Editorial

Welcome to Environmental Contamination: Causes and Solutions

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I write this Editorial article to accompany the inaugural volume of *Environmental Contamination: Causes and Solutions (ECCS)*. As indicated by its scope, the purpose of *ECCS* is to provide a source of reliable, peer-reviewed publications on research into all relevant aspects of environmental contamination (air, biota, food, sediment, soil, waste, water, wildlife, etc.) with anthropogenic chemicals. *ECCS* has a broad definition of what constitutes an anthropogenic chemical, whether it is the parent chemical or its metabolite/degradation product(s), whether it is organic or inorganic, or indeed biological agents that are a consequence of chemical contamination, such as antibiotic-resistant genes (ARGs). Relevant topics include:

- Source apportionment/attribution
- Bioconcentration/bioaccumulation
- Transport within the environment and/or between environmental compartments
- Environmental and/or human health implications of chemical contamination

In addition, we recognise that it is not enough just to identify and quantify the scale of environmental contamination and its consequences. My long experience of interactions with policymakers charged with protecting human and environmental health from chemical pollution is that while they welcome research that highlights problems that they should address, they (and the populations they serve) are crying out for studies that report on potential solutions to such contamination. In this way, science can facilitate the development of technologies and policies that can effectively protect our environment and health. Given this, we will publish studies reporting methods for preventing, minimising, and remediating chemical contamination. Such studies that seek solutions to environmental chemical contamination include those that report sustainable chemical processes, renewable feedstocks, waste minimisation/recycling (Circular Economy), green solvents, and eco-friendly materials.

In this inaugural issue, we publish 6 articles that address research into various aspects of chemical contamination of a diverse range of environmental categories and matrices, ranging from air, dust, and potable water from aircraft, cars, homes, and offices, to furniture fabrics, freshwater sediment, and biota. Chemicals studied include: organophosphate esters, perfluoroalkyl substances, and silver nanoparticles; while the issue of environmental antimicrobial resistance that has arisen as a consequence of overuse of antibiotics is also critically reviewed. Published manuscripts cover a range of experimental approaches from field studies to controlled laboratory experiments, coupled with mathematical modelling. Indeed, this inaugural issue encapsulates the broad remit of *ECCS*. Just as chemical contamination of our environment does not respect borders or boundaries between environmental compartments or species, neither does *ECCS*. Moreover, a glance at the authorship list in this first issue underscores the fully international reach of *ECCS*, with researchers based on four continents, namely Australia, Europe, North and South America. This chimes with the internationally collaborative nature of modern science, and *ECCS* fully embraces this ethos.

Over the coming months and years, I look forward to publishing many high-quality articles addressing the extent of, the consequences of, and solutions to chemical contamination of the environment. I and the other Editorial Board Members invite you to submit your manuscripts for publication. We promise a rapid, thorough, and impartial review as we work towards our goal of becoming a leading journal in the field of environmental contamination.

Conflicts of Interest

The author declares no conflict of interest.

Use of AI and AI-Assisted Technologies

No AI tools were utilised for this paper.