

GLOSSARY

Amino acid. An organic acid containing amino and carboxyl chemical groups: amino acids are the building blocks of peptides, polypeptides and proteins.

Peptide. A molecule formed by the linking together of two or more amino acids: peptides may have up to fifty amino acids.

Polypeptide. A string of fifty or more amino acids linked together.

Protein. Two or more polypeptide chains linked together for a specific function.

Toxin. Naturally occurring chemical compounds isolated from animals, plants or microorganisms, or their synthetic analogues that have toxic effects on humans or animals. Most of the toxins discussed in this paper are peptides.

Bioregulator. Chemical compounds produced by cells in one part of an organism that have profound regulatory effects on biological processes within the organism; most recently discovered bioregulators are small peptides.

Analogue (also Analog): A modified form of the original molecule of the toxin or bioregulator, made by chemical synthesis, genetic engineering, or any other means. Analogues of toxins and bioregulators fall into two classes: agonists that bind to the target receptor and cause a similar response to that of the original toxin or bioregulator; and antagonists that bind to the target receptor and may block the action of the original toxin or bioregulator.

Biological warfare agent. Living organisms that are intended to cause death or disease in humans, animals or plants. They must multiply in their target in order to exert their toxic effects.

Chemical warfare agent. Chemical substances which might be employed in warfare for their direct toxic effect on humans, animals or plants.

UNITS OF MASS

One kilogram (kg) equals 1000 grams.

There are one thousand milligrams (mg) in one gram.

There are one million micrograms (ug) in one gram.

There are one billion nanograms (ng) in one gram.

There are one thousand billion picograms (pg) in one gram.