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December 12th, 2016

Dear Prof Jin-Xin Kong,

Please find enclosed a modified version of my editorial entitled “Biochemical strategies for the detection and detoxification of toxic chemicals in the environment.”, (Manuscript NO: 29865) for publication in the World Journal of Biological Chemistry. I would like to thank you and the referees for their comments. I have incorporated all the proposed suggestions as you can find answered one by one in the following paragraphs. I hope these changes adequately address the questions raised by the referees and will permit the manuscript to be published.

Looking forward to hearing from you soon,

Yours sincerely,

Ferdinando Febbraio, PhD

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**Reviewer's code:** 02615129

### COMMENTS TO AUTHORS

It is well-written and very informative.

**Answers to comments:** Thank you very much for your positive comment, which we do appreciate.

**Reviewer's code:** 00503623

### COMMENTS TO AUTHORS

The manuscript is an editorial addressed to the scientific community in order to heighten the awareness about the problems related to the widespread presence of hazardous chemicals in the environment. The author reviews the advances in strategies for the detection of hazardous chemicals, methods of sampling, and the use of plant and microbial enzymes for the degradation of these compounds.

This is well-written and timely article. However, the Abstract section should be revised to make it less diffuse scientifically and more informative in terms of current developments in methodologies applied to address the problems caused by chemical pollutants.

**Answers to comments:** Thank you for your comments, I have modified the abstract in agreement with your suggestions.

**Reviewer's code:** 00625196

### COMMENTS TO AUTHORS

This is a well structured and informative manuscript. From my point of view it reads like a review, but might be also published as a long editorial.

**Answers to comments:** Thank you very much for your positive comment, which we do appreciate.

**Reviewer's code:** 00694174

### COMMENTS TO AUTHORS

This editorial review article by Febbraio F. highlighted the biochemical strategies for the detection and detoxification of several classes of toxic chemicals in the environment. Although the author did not include a very important class of environmental toxins, i.e., thousands of chemical compounds



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from tobacco cigarette smoking, the manuscript has provided a good review on several important classes of chemicals such as pesticides and neurotoxic chemicals in terms of their potential impact on biological systems and human health at low level exposure, state-of-the-art detection and degradation, their detection with biochemical strategies such as biosensors, as well as their possible removal through bioremediation. These are important issues in today's scientific field that may be of interest to the general readership of World Journal of Biological Chemistry.

This review is easy to read and informative, and I suggest to publish after minor revisions. The revision should include some words or caveat about the tobacco smoking-derived chemicals and why they were not covered by this editorial. It would be good that some review articles on tobacco contamination and related issues be included for readers.

Page 3, line 10 from bottom: "85.000" should be "85,000".

**Answers to comments:** Thank you very much for your suggestions. I agree with your opinion about the dangerous effects of chemical compounds from tobacco cigarettes and I have included this topic in a specific paragraph of the editorial, describing tobacco smoking-derived chemicals and the reason why I have not covered this aspect. In fact, I have centered this editorial on chemicals introduced into the environment by necessity and the use of which cannot be easily avoided, such as pesticides for crops or chemicals for industrial processes. On the contrary, cigarette smoking is not necessary, and so the chemical contaminants produced by this activity could be easily removed if people decided to stop smoking.

I have corrected the mistake "85.000" in "85,000", thank you for the information.