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Post-Global Pandemic Challenges and improvements in advanced detection and removal processes of toxic pollutants: Editorial

GRAPHICAL ABSTRACT

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ABSTRACT

Every two years, the Pollutant Toxic Ions and Molecules Conference, PTIM, meets the environmentalist, biologist, chemists and health researchers in Costa de Caparica, Portugal, to showcase the latest technologies, methodologies and research advances in pollution detection, contamination control, remediation, and related health issues, as well as policy implications.

We are living on a Green Planet with multiple equilibria. Modifications on any of them drastically affect the entire globe. Humanity is confronted with a hazardous health situation induced by a virus, the SARS-CoV-2. This RNA nanocage is devastating to human lives on the five continents. The world was forced to stop for months, producing healthy benefits such as cleaner air, reduced gas emissions (e.g. CO₂), and a break for wildlife in our lands, rivers, and oceans. These Effects brought us astounding images of a more prosperous planet. Many questions have already risen during and will further arise after this pandemic time.

Are these effects maintained for an extended period? How long have we to improve new methodologies for detection, quantification and recovery from the new pollutants? How will we develop the necessary control over our water, food, land, and air? Untreated wastewaters and solid residues from industries, hospitals, and households still result in the discharge of toxic pollutants to the environment and can affect our health. Eating wildlife animal products increases the risk of chaos and new diseases and zoonoses. We need to rethink and improve the oldest methodologies based on advanced oxidation processes, heterogeneous photocatalysis, application of nanomaterials, and new cost-effective and stable methods to provide safety again to our lives and the environment.

The main idea to organize this special issue entitled “Post-Global...
Pandemic Challenges and Improvements in Advanced Detection and Removal Processes of Toxic Pollutants...
