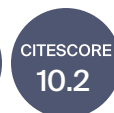




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Perinatal Nutrition: A Strategy to Improve Offspring's Health

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Message from the Guest Editors

Dear Colleagues,

Fetal development and childhood are life stages characterized by the rapid growth, development, and maturation of organs and systems. Any variation in the quality or quantity of nutrients consumed by mothers during pregnancy, or by neonates during the first year of life, can have powerful and permanent effects on the development of tissues and systems. These effects are called "early nutritional programming" and represent an important risk factor for noncommunicable diseases of adulthood, including metabolic syndrome and cardiovascular disease. Indicators of nutritional deficit in pregnancy are associated with an increased risk of type 2 diabetes and cardiovascular mortality. There is also evidence that suggests some relationship between breastfeeding, the timing and type of food used after weaning, and disease in adulthood. Experimental studies have provided important insights into the mechanisms that link nutrition to homeostatic disturbances in early life and disease in adulthood.

Prof. Dr. Javier Diaz-Castro

Guest Editor



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