



Emergent Strategies for Natural Products Delivery

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Message from the Guest Editors

Natural products have a wide range of applications with a profound impact in the medical and healthcare fields. In the last decade, numerous delivery systems based on natural products have been developed to optimise their biopharmaceutical properties, to achieve desirable target characteristics, to reduce doses and side effects, and even to achieve therapeutic levels of drugs over an extended period.

This is generally related to the scarce water solubility, low lipophilicity and inappropriate molecular size of natural compounds, which undergo structural instability in a biological milieu, rapid clearance and a high metabolic rate. Additionally, some molecules are destroyed in gastric juice or suffer a massive pre-systemic metabolism in the liver when administered orally, limiting their clinical use. Reduced bioavailability can be also linked to drug distribution/accumulation in non-targeted tissues and organs that increase the side effects, lowering the therapeutic efficacy and patient compliance. Delivery systems represent favourable tools to increase the bioavailability and activities of natural products.





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Message from the Editor-in-Chief

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