

Special Issue

Advances in Mammary Gland Biology and Lactation of Ruminants: Second Edition

Message from the Guest Editor

Apart from its milk-producing function, the mammary gland is a unique mammalian organ in two major ways. First, it is almost invariably sited outside of the body cavity, and second, it grows and regresses several times during the animal's life. Being isolated from the body helps to protect the body from infections that are common in the mammary gland due to the suitability of the intramammary environment for microorganisms, and the gland has both local and systemic methods of protection to combat mastitis. Being isolated also facilitates the growth and regression of the gland by separating the many growth factors that are involved from other body organs (where they might cause chaos). Add to these functions the mechanism by which the gland produces colostrum to provide offspring with immunological competence as well as with milk, both of which are produced in amounts and compositions that are appropriate for the species and the offspring. This surely indicates that the mammary gland is one of the most complicated and fascinating organs. Thus, the plan for this Special Issue is to highlight research in mammary biology and lactation in ruminants.

Guest Editor

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Deadline for manuscript submissions

31 October 2025



Animals

an Open Access Journal
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Impact Factor 2.7
CiteScore 5.2
Indexed in PubMed



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Message from the Editor-in-Chief

Animals is an on-line open access journal that was first published in 2011. *Animals* adheres to rigorous peerreview and editorial processes and publishes only high quality manuscripts that address important issues in the many varied disciplines that involve animals, with a focus on animal science, animal welfare and animal ethics. *Animals* is covered in the Science Citation Index Expanded (SCIE) in Web of Science, with the latest Impact Factor: 2.7 (2024, ranks 15/86 (Q1) in 'Agriculture, Dairy & Animal Science'; 21/170 (Q1) in 'Veterinary Sciences'), 5-Year Impact Factor: 3.2.

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