

Special Issue

The Myostatin Gene: Future Challenges in Animal Science

Message from the Guest Editors

Myostatin (MSTN), also known as Growth and Differentiation Factor 8 (GDF8), is a member of the Transforming Growth Factor β (TGF β) superfamily and is one of the major regulators of skeletal muscle development. The *MSTN* gene is highly conserved among mammalian species, and it acts in an almost unique manner to negatively control muscle development. A number of large animals, including cattle, sheep, goats, horses, pigs, and dogs display the so-called 'double muscled' (DBM) phenotype due to mutations in the *MSTN* gene. Therefore, *MSTN* and its regulation is becoming one of the hot spots for association analysis of growth and meat traits in the animal breeding. For these reasons, a greater understanding of *MSTN* induction, regulation, and overall function is needed to dissect and validate *MSTN* as a marker to consider in livestock production. This Special Issue aims to improve our understanding of how MSTN contributes to skeletal muscle metabolism, and or influences other traits, such as, reproduction, metabolic efficiency, immunity, and in general all the productive traits in livestock animals.

Guest Editors

Dr. Emiliano Lasagna

Department of Agricultural, Food and Environmental Sciences,
University of Perugia, Borgo XX Giugno, 74, 06121 Perugia, Italy

Dr. Domenico Aiello

1. Department of Agricultural, Food and Environmental Sciences,
University of Perugia, Borgo XX Giugno, 74, 06121 Perugia, Italy
2. CIRIAF (Interuniversity Research Center on Pollution and
Environment), University of Perugia, Perugia, Italy

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Editorial Office
MDPI, Grosspeteranlage 5
4052 Basel, Switzerland
Tel: +41 61 683 77 34
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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.

Editor-in-Chief

Prof. Dr. Clive J. C. Phillips

1. Institute of Veterinary Medicine and Animal Sciences, Estonian University of Life Sciences, Kreutzwaldi 1, 51014 Tartu, Estonia
2. Curtin University Sustainability Policy (CUSP) Institute, Kent St., Bentley 6102, Australia

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