

## Special Issue

# Functional Foods: Product Development, Technological Trends and Safety

### Message from the Guest Editors

This Special Issue aims to focus on current trends in functional foods, such as the incorporation of bioactive compounds (probiotics, prebiotics, polyphenols, peptides) derived from natural sources or produced using advanced biotechnological methods.

Furthermore, there is a strong shift toward clean-label products, plant-based alternatives, and personalized nutrition. Technological innovations, including nanoencapsulation, 3D-food-printing, fermentation, and smart packaging are being used to enhance ingredient stability, improve bioavailability, and deliver targeted health benefits. Artificial intelligence and big data are also being used to tailor functional foods to individual dietary needs and preferences. Safety remains a priority, with rigorous testing required to ensure that new ingredients do not pose health risks. In summary, the development of functional foods requires a multidisciplinary approach combining food science, technology, and regulatory insight to create innovative, safe, and effective products that meet current consumer demands.

---

### Guest Editors

Dr. Débora Cerdá-Bernad

Dr. Jesús Clemente-Villalba

Dr. Jessica López Pastén

---

### Deadline for manuscript submissions

20 June 2026



## Applied Sciences

---

an Open Access Journal  
by MDPI

---

Impact Factor 2.5  
CiteScore 5.5



[mdpi.com/si/242435](https://mdpi.com/si/242435)

*Applied Sciences*  
Editorial Office  
MDPI, Grosspeteranlage 5  
4052 Basel, Switzerland  
Tel: +41 61 683 77 34  
[applsci@mdpi.com](mailto:applsci@mdpi.com)

[mdpi.com/journal/](https://mdpi.com/journal/)

[applsci](https://mdpi.com/journal/applsci)





# Applied Sciences

---

an Open Access Journal  
by MDPI

---

Impact Factor 2.5  
CiteScore 5.5



[mdpi.com/journal/  
applsci](https://mdpi.com/journal/applsci)



## About the Journal

### Message from the Editor-in-Chief

As the world of science becomes ever more specialized, researchers may lose themselves in the deep forest of the ever increasing number of subfields being created. This open access journal *Applied Sciences* has been started to link these subfields, so researchers can cut through the forest and see the surrounding, or quite distant fields and subfields to help develop his/her own research even further with the aid of this multi-dimensional network.

---

### Editor-in-Chief

Prof. Dr. Giulio Nicola Cerullo  
Dipartimento di Fisica, Politecnico di Milano, Piazza L. da Vinci 32,  
20133 Milano, Italy

---

### Author Benefits

#### Open Access:

free for readers, with article processing charges (APC) paid by authors or their institutions.

#### High Visibility:

indexed within Scopus, SCIE (Web of Science), Ei Compendex, Inspec, Embase, CAPIus / SciFinder, and other databases.

#### Journal Rank:

JCR - Q2 (Engineering, Multidisciplinary) / CiteScore - Q1 (General Engineering )