

Special Issue

Probiotic Food: Latest Advances and Prospects

Message from the Guest Editors

Probiotic foods are among the first functional foods developed and are currently leading products in this area. While dairy products were originally the main commercial probiotic foods, nowadays, a diversity of foodstuffs has been developed, including baked foods, juices, and fermented meats/vegetables. Typically, probiotic foods contain *Lactobacillus* and/or *Bifidobacterium* strains, but species such as *Bacillus coagulans* or *Pedococcus acilactici* are being increasingly used. Renewed interest in traditional fermented foods, including kefir and kombucha, as sources of beneficial microorganism consortiums also provides further opportunities. Moreover, their formulation poses technological challenges that have been tentatively overcome to guarantee strain viability and stability throughout production and storage. Probiotic foods were traditionally associated with digestive and immune health claims, but other health targets, including weight management, heart health, and brain-mood, are being suggested. Despite enlightening advances in research and developments, validation of the health-promoting properties of probiotic foods is still required, especially by regulators.

Guest Editors

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Deadline for manuscript submissions

closed (28 February 2022)



Foods

an Open Access Journal
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Impact Factor 5.1
CiteScore 8.7
Indexed in PubMed



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Foods (ISSN 2304-8158) is an open access and peer reviewed scientific journal that publishes original articles, critical reviews, case reports, and short communications on food science. Articles are released monthly online, with unlimited free access. Currently, *Foods* has been indexed by the Science Citation Index Expanded (SCIE - Web of Science), PubMed, and Scopus. Our aim is to encourage scientists, researchers, and other food professionals to publish their experimental and theoretical results as much detail as possible. We therefore invite you to be one of our authors, and in doing so share your important research findings with the global food science community.

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