



Clinical, Toxicological and Environmental Aspects of Maternal and Child Health in the Light of Gender and Age Differences

Guest Editors:

Dr. Beatrice Paradiso

1. "Lino Rossi" Research Center for the Study and Prevention of Unexpected Perinatal Death and SIDS, Department of Biomedical, Surgical and Dental Sciences, University of Milan, 20121 Milan, Italy

2. Anatomy and Pathological Histology Unit, Dolo Hospital, Riviera XXIX Aprile, 2, 30031 Dolo, VE, Italy

Dr. Giulia Ottaviani

Lino Rossi Research Center, Department of Biomedical, Surgical and Dental Sciences, University of Milan, 20122 Milan, Italy

Message from the Guest Editors

Taking psychotropics during gestation can lead to adverse perinatal and postnatal outcomes; however, psychotherapy in these women to stop medication presents new risks associated with untreated or inadequately treated mental illnesses. However, all psychotropic drugs, numerous environmental toxicants and substances of abuse can cross the placenta, are present in the amniotic fluid, and can enter breast milk. The FDA, the Australian Drug Evaluation Committee and Micromedex, have classified drugs according to risk during pregnancy, but little has been done to study and produce drugs tailored for women, pregnant women and infants and adolescents. Most of the new drugs placed on the market are exclusively tested on a man of average age, male sex and normal weight, but maternal–fetal health and healthy childhood and adolescence are not protected in this way. Chemical and environmental toxicants' effect on pregnant women also warrants detailed investigation.

Deadline for manuscript
submissions:

closed (31 January 2025)





an Open Access Journal by MDPI

Editor-in-Chief

Prof. Dr. Paul R. Ward

School of Society and Culture,
Adelaide University, Adelaide
5001, Australia

Message from the Editor-in-Chief

Addressing the environmental and public health challenges requires engagement and collaboration among clinicians and public health researchers. Scientific discoveries and advances in this research field play a critical role in providing a rational basis for informed decision-making toward control and prevention of human diseases, especially the illnesses that are induced from environmental exposure to health hazards.

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Health* Editorial Office
MDPI, Grosspeteranlage 5
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