

Special Issue

Molecular Insights into the Developmental Origins of Health and Disease

Message from the Guest Editors

Fetal development and infancy are characterized by the rapid growth, development, and maturation of organ systems. It has now become increasingly evident that several pathophysiological conditions, including diabetes and cardiovascular disease, that occur in adolescence and adulthood may have their origins during fetal or postnatal development. This Special Issue will bring together global experts in the field of developmental and molecular programming to provide an overview of as well as recent advances in the understanding of the long-term consequences of the programming of gene expression and the modification of the molecular biology of organ systems during fetal and postnatal development. Since nutritional exposure during fetal development can also be transmitted to further generations, the impact of heritable epigenetic modifications on nutritional programming and increased risk for disease in postnatal life will be described. Furthermore, the molecular aspects of normal fetal nutrition, growth, and development through efficient maternal nutrition before and during pregnancy will be highlighted as a novel strategy for the primary prevention of disease in later life.

Guest Editors

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The International Journal of Molecular Sciences (*IJMS*, ISSN 1422-0067) is an open access journal, which was established in 2000. The journal aims to provide a forum for scholarly research on a range of topics, including biochemistry, molecular and cell biology, molecular biophysics, molecular medicine, and all aspects of molecular research in chemistry. *IJMS* publishes both original research and review articles, and regularly publishes special issues to highlight advances at the cutting edge of research. We invite you to read recent articles published in *IJMS* and consider publishing your next paper with us.

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