Special Issue

Interactions between the Environment and the Intestinal Epithelium: Gut Barrier Function and Inflammation

Message from the Guest Editors

The gastrointestinal tract is a complex interface between the immune system and its external environment. It establishes a dynamic barrier. The ability to control the intake of nutrients across the mucosa and protect it from damage of harmful substances contained in the lumen is defined as the intestinal barrier function (IBF). Numerous human diseases, including intestinal pathologies, as well as extra-intestinal pathologies, are linked to an impairment of the IBF. Therefore, identifying and understanding the mechanisms by which environmental factors destabilize the IBF, represent an important research direction for the diagnosis and treatment of various iseases. Here, we invite experts to contribute to this Special Issue with original research or review articles, investigating the components of the environment that may have a impact on the IBF.

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