

Special Issue

The Methyloome as an Emerging Profiler of Exposome

Message from the Guest Editor

"Exposome" refers to the totality of the exposures suffered by an individual, that comes from all sources, (i.e. environment, food, psychosocial components, endogenous exposure), in a life-course perspective from the womb onwards. One of the key tools for the development and application of the exposome concept is the use of global sets of biomarkers (-omics) as generic measures of the internal exposome and disease risk. Among them, alterations in epigenetic biomarkers such as DNA methylation have been associated with various exposures, and in many cases proved to be critical determinants of disease risk and aetiology. In addition, the long-lasting nature of their fingerprint (methyloome) is a prerequisite for the temporal component of the exposome. Therefore, deviations on CpG methylation or hydroxymethylation could function as the biological mediators between the environmental exposures and their effect on health and thus bridge the gap between the genetic and environmental determinants of human diseases. The Special Issue invites studies, reviews, and commentaries related to this emerging area of environmental epigenetics.

Guest Editor

Dr. Panagiotis Georgiadis

Institute of Chemical Biology, National Hellenic Research Foundation,
11634 Athens, Greece

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Editorial Office
MDPI, Grosspeteranlage 5
4052 Basel, Switzerland
Tel: +41 61 683 77 34
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Prof. Dr. Maurizio Battino

Department of Odontostomatologic and Specialized Clinical Sciences,
Sez-Biochimica, Faculty of Medicine, Università Politecnica delle
Marche, Via Ranieri 65, 60100 Ancona, Italy

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