

## Special Issue

# The Role of Natural Products in Drug Discovery

### Message from the Guest Editors

Natural products often result from an optimized evolutionary process in which chemicals have been under the selective forces of coevolution, where organisms produce substances in the presence of their predators. These natural compounds have been utilized by humans since ancient times to treat and cure their diseases. Of the existing plants in the world, most of which are unknown from a scientific point of view, only about 5% of the approximately 250,000–500,000 species have been biologically studied and evaluated. Natural products are often phenolic compounds, flavonoids, alkaloids, or terpenes—secondary plant metabolites that may provide several benefits to our health. These benefits include cosmetic action, cardioprotective effects, anti-inflammatory activity, the treatment of cancer, etc. This issue will consist of articles that report different studies carried out in relation to natural drug research in order to provide relevant information on new drug candidate compounds that use bioactive natural products.

### Guest Editors

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## International Journal of Molecular Sciences

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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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