



## The Role of Endocrine Disrupting Chemicals in the Feto-Placental Unit and Female Reproduction

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Deadline for manuscript  
submissions:

**closed (30 September 2021)**

### Message from the Guest Editors

Endocrine disrupting chemicals (EDCs) are environmental chemicals that interfere with physiological systems, adversely affecting the hormonal balance within various endocrine axes (particularly within the female reproductive system) or disrupting normal function in the target organs that these hormones regulate. EDCs include a variety of chemicals classes, such as industrial by-products, pesticides, and chemicals, used in manufacturing (particularly plastics). The US Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) have reported that more than 90% of 2000 individuals tested positive for chemicals in their blood. Moreover, in a report to the WHO (The State of the Science of Endocrine Disrupting Chemicals-2012), key concerns were raised regarding the “*high incidence and the increasing trends of many endocrine-related disorders in humans*”.

Emerging studies have linked EDCs with disorders at the placental level, impact later in adult life. Contributions to this Special Issue will advance our understanding of the role of EDCs in placentation, placental development and placental functions...





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