

Special Issue

Microalgae Metabolites

Message from the Guest Editors

Microalgae and their extracts represent a vast and unexplored source of compounds with biological activity. These compounds show nutraceutical, antimicrobial, anti-inflammatory, anti-aging, aggregative, vasoconstricting, hypocholesterolemic, antioxidant, immunosuppressive, photoprotective, and neurotransmitting activities. Although hundreds of these metabolites have been identified in cultures of photosynthetic microorganisms, the induction of synthesis is unknown in most cases, the separation and recovery of the compounds need to be optimized and, thus, their inclusion into commercial products awaits further research and development. Chemically, the compounds with biological activity can be grouped into proteins/enzymes, fatty acids, sterols, pigments, vitamins, alkaloids, mycosporine-like amino acids, and other compounds not fitting into these aforementioned categories. This Special Issue is dedicated to all aspects of the production of specialty chemicals from microalgae, covering the selecting of the species, the definition of the culture conditions, isolating and purifying the target molecule, and demonstration of the biological activity through clinical tests.

Guest Editors

Dr. Eduardo Jacob-Lopes

Food Science and Technology Department, Federal University of Santa Maria, Santa Maria 97105-900, Brazil

Dr. Leila Queiroz Zepka

Food Science and Technology Department, Federal University of Santa Maria, Santa Maria, RS, Brazil

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Life
Editorial Office
MDPI, Grosspeteranlage 5
4052 Basel, Switzerland
Tel: +41 61 683 77 34
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Editor-in-Chief

Prof. Dr. Lluís Ribas de Pouplana

Institute for Research in Biomedicine (IRB Barcelona), The Barcelona
Institute of Science and Technology, 08028 Barcelona, Spain

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