

Special Issue

Fetal Life: Normal and Abnormal Development

Message from the Guest Editors

This Special Issue is dedicated to fetal life, a unique and crucial event that affects postnatal life from birth to death. Although most fetuses have an uneventful intrauterine life, there are unfortunately cases of abnormal fetal development and intrauterine events that dictate an unfortunate postnatal life. Congenital malformations that occur during embryogenesis are an excellent example of intrauterine events disturbing normal life. Another example of an adverse event is preterm delivery. This last mentioned event is responsible for prematurity affecting brain development and function. The most novel and interesting concept affecting life is the concept of fetal programming. It is clear today that the intrauterine environment affects postnatal life. For example, maternal starvation changes the genetic expression of the fetus through epigenetic mechanisms affecting postnatal life for generations. We dedicated this edition to fetal life, describing normal development and unfortunate events that affect postnatal life.

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Deadline for manuscript submissions

closed (18 November 2022)



Life

an Open Access Journal
by MDPI

Impact Factor 3.4
CiteScore 6.0
Indexed in PubMed



mdpi.com/si/93312

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