Special Issue

Microalgal Carotenoids

Message from the Guest Editors

Carotenoids are typical pigments of photosynthetic organisms. In vivo, they play crucial roles in photosynthesis, phototaxis, photoprotection and antioxidative responses. The carotenoid biosynthetic pathway is complex and involves several cell compartments. Due to the fact that carotenoids may conserve their properties in vitro, the interest for these natural molecules has increased in recent years. In order to satisfy the growing demand for carotenoids, new carotenoid sources are indeed searched. In this frame, the high potential of microalgae emerged. This intensive research results in the description of many carotenoids that can be used for taxonomic purposes. The accumulation of carotenoids, the so-called secondary carotenoids, in microalgae is often closely linked to a stressful environment. However, the application of this knowledge to transform microalgae into cell factories remains a medium to long-term project. The objective of this Special Issue is to advance closer to this horizon by bringing together current knowledge about the carotenoids of microalgae, including cyanobacteria.

Guest Editors

Prof. Dr. Benoît Schoefs

Dr. Justine Marchand

Dr. Vandana Vinayak

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Marine Drugs
Editorial Office
MDPI, Grosspeteranlage 5
4052 Basel, Switzerland
Tel: +41 61 683 77 34
marinedrugs@mdpi.com

mdpi.com/journal/marinedrugs

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Message from the Editor-in-Chief

During the past few decades there has been an ever increasing number of novel compounds discovered in the marine environment. This is exemplified by the robust preclinical and clinical pipeline that currently exists for marine natural products. *Marine Drugs* is inviting contributions on new advances in marine biotechnology, pharmacology, chemical ecology, synthetic biology, and genomics approaches related to the discovery of therapeutically relevant marine natural products. Our goal is to share your contribution in a timely fashion and in a manner that will be valued by the scientific community.

Editor-in-Chief

Prof. Dr. Bill J. Baker
Department of Chemistry, University of South Florida, 4202 E. Fowler Ave., CHE 205, Tampa, FL 33620-5250, USA

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