Special Issue

Biological and Physiological Properties of Pectins

Message from the Guest Editors

Research concerning the broad and diverse biological and physiological properties of pectin is flourishing around the world. Studies go from the rediscovery of its antimicrobial activity through its use as a medicinal substance and promising biomaterial in regenerative medicine. It is now clear that the uses of this heteropolysaccharide will soon go well beyond its use as a texturizing agent in the food industry, where the hydrothermally extracted biopolymer is in high demand as the preferred natural hydrocolloid. The aforementioned intense research in the life sciences are almost concomitant to those in green chemistry, which now afford pectins that are far less degraded and of higher bioactivity when compared to the commercial pectin extracted from dried citrus peel or apple pomace using mineral acid in hot water. Hence, we believe that a Special Issue collecting openly accessible research articles, reviews, and commentaries devoted to the biological and physiological properties of pectins in a reputed journal such as *Molecules* is timely and welcome.

Guest Editors

Dr. Alessandro Presentato

Dipartimento di Scienze e Tecnologie Biologiche Chimiche e Farmaceutiche, University of Palermo, Palermo, Italy

Dr. Antonino Scurria

Istituto per lo Studio dei Materiali Nanostrutturati, CNR, Palermo, Italy

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

mdpi.com/journal/molecules

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Message from the Editor-in-Chief

As the premier open access journal dedicated to experimental organic chemistry, and now in its 25th year of publication, the papers published in *Molecules* span from classical synthetic methodology to natural product isolation and characterization, as well as physicochemical studies and the applications of these molecules as pharmaceuticals, catalysts and novel materials. Pushing the boundaries of the discipline, we invite papers on multidisciplinary topics bridging biochemistry, biophysics and materials science, as well as timely reviews and topical issues on cutting edge fields in all these areas.

Editor-in-Chief

Prof. Dr. Thomas J. Schmidt
Institute of Pharmaceutical Biology and Phytochemistry, University of Münster, Corrensstrasse 48, D-48149 Münster, Germany

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