Special Issue

Design, Synthesis and Evaluation of Small Molecule Drugs

Message from the Guest Editors

Small molecule drugs have been the mainstay of the pharmaceutical industry for nearly a century. Defined as any organic compound with a low molecular weight, small molecule drugs have some distinct advantages as therapeutics: most can be administered orally, and they can pass through cell membranes to reach intracellular targets. They can also be designed to engage biological targets by various modes of action and their distribution can further be tailored, for example, to allow for systemic exposure with or without brain penetration. The rapid advancement of biopharmaceutical research and technology opens up possibilities for innovative and creative new approaches to developing small molecule drugs. Based on these considerations, this Special Issue aims to provide a platform for original research papers, short communications, and review articles on the latest advances in small molecule drugs. These papers may cover multidisciplinary aspects (such as drug design, synthesis, and pharmacological evaluation) of novel small molecule drugs with potential therapeutic innovations.

Guest Editors

Dr. Elisa Magli

Department of Public Health, University of Naples "Federico II", 80131 Naples, Italy

Prof. Dr. Beatrice Severino

Department of Pharmacy, School of Medicine, University of Naples Federico II, Via D. Montesano 49, 80131 Napoli, Italy

Deadline for manuscript submissions

closed (1 March 2025)



Molecules

an Open Access Journal by MDPI

Impact Factor 4.6
CiteScore 8.6
Indexed in PubMed



mdpi.com/si/159086

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

mdpi.com/journal/molecules





Molecules

an Open Access Journal by MDPI

Impact Factor 4.6 CiteScore 8.6 Indexed in PubMed



About the Journal

Message from the Editor-in-Chief

As the premier open access journal dedicated to molecular chemistry, now in its 29th 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 all major fields of molecular chemistry and multidisciplinary topics bridging chemistry with biology, physics, and materials science, as well as timely reviews and topical issues on cutting-edge fields in all of 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

Author Benefits

High Visibility:

indexed within Scopus, SCIE (Web of Science), PubMed, MEDLINE, PMC, Reaxys, CaPlus / SciFinder, MarinLit, AGRIS, and other databases.

Journal Rank:

JCR - Q2 (Biochemistry and Molecular Biology) / CiteScore - Q1 (Organic Chemistry)

Rapid Publication:

manuscripts are peer-reviewed and a first decision is provided to authors approximately 16.1 days after submission; acceptance to publication is undertaken in 2.6 days (median values for papers published in this journal in the first half of 2025).

