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Vitamins and Micronutrients in Cancer

Guest Editors:

Dr. Helen Swede

Department of Public Health
Sciences, School of Medicine,
University of Connecticut,
Farmington, CT, USA

Dr. Heather Ochs-Balcom

Department of Epidemiology and
Environmental Health, School of
Public Health and Health
Professions, University at Buffalo,
Buffalo, NY, USA

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Message from the Guest Editors

While much evidence exists that certain broad dietary patterns affect cancer risk, evidence remains largely equivocal about the preventive role of specific vitamins and micronutrients and if there are differences in effect by cancer type. Advancement in these research domains could inform prevention strategies. Notably, however, a chemoprevention trial of Vitamin A supplementation reported an increased risk for lung cancer among those exposed to asbestos, which stood in contrast to evidence from observational and pre-clinical studies. This result created long-term biological reassessment of micronutrient-based chemoprevention. Due to the complexities of carcinogenesis, additional research needs include a greater understanding of gene–environment risk; vitamin supplementation on pre-malignant lesions; and disparities in intake.

Another topic requiring advancement is vitamin intake post-diagnosis. Emerging evidence suggests that vitamin supplementation might enhance survival as well as the effectiveness of specific chemotherapies. Also understudied is the modifying impact of dietary pattern and social barriers on the relationship between vitamin intake and improved outcomes.



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Special Issue



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Prof. Dr. Lluís Serra-Majem

1. Centro de Investigación
Biomédica en Red Fisiopatología
de la Obesidad y la Nutrición
(CIBEROBN), Institute of Health
Carlos III, 28029 Madrid, Spain
2. Research Institute of
Biomedical and Health Sciences
(IUIBS), University of Las Palmas
de Gran Canaria, 35001 Las
Palmas, Spain
3. Preventive Medicine Service,
Centro Hospitalario Universitario
Insular Materno Infantil (CHUIMI),
Canarian Health Service, 35016
Las Palmas, Spain

Prof. Dr. Maria Luz Fernandez

Department of Nutritional
Sciences, University of
Connecticut, Storrs, CT 06269,
USA

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Nutrients Editorial Office
MDPI, St. Alban-Anlage 66
4052 Basel, Switzerland

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