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Influence of Maternal Diet and Environmental Factors on Fetal Development

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Message from the Guest Editor

A maternal diet can affect fetal development. During pregnancy, the composition of the maternal gut microbiota, and changes to that composition, has significant consequences for fetal development and adult health. A complex association between early gut microbiota composition and its long-term effects on adult health issues has been reported. A healthy maternal diet significantly impacts healthy maternal gut microbiota, which, in turn, affects the formation of the fetal/newborn intestinal microbiota. Beneficial effects of prenatal pro- and prebiotic treatment on offspring's health are known, although detailed studies regarding the type, dosage, and timing of pro-/prebiotic intake during pregnancy are required.

Despite the convincing results, some critical points and significant evidence still need to be included. Therefore, this Special Issue invites articles on maternal gut microbiota and fetal and neonatal development and health. In addition, reports are requested on the maternal dietary factors and other potential modulators of the maternal–fetal microbiota axis during pregnancy, impacting offspring's microbiota and health.



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Special Issue



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