



## Lactation and Breast Milk—the Appropriate System for Postnatal Programming and Disease Prevention

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### Message from the Guest Editors

Dear Colleagues,

During the last few decades, the scientific understanding of breast milk has evolved from being seen as a food source to being a complex system of maternal signaling and programming for the developing infant.

The purpose of this Special Issue is to provide up-to-date evidence demonstrating that breast milk serves dual functions as both a source of nutrition and as a postnatal epigenetic programming system. This programming system is crucial for the appropriate development of the gastrointestinal, immunological, metabolic, and neuroendocrine systems, and ultimately helps to prevent diseases such as obesity, diabetes mellitus, and cancer. Breast milk ensures that the infant receives species- and genome-specific feeding and programming, which cannot be replicated by artificial substitutes. The infant's transition from the intrauterine environment to the extrauterine life is continued by the tight control of the mammary glands. This allows for both breast-mediated feeding and programming.

We would be delighted to receive your manuscript as an expert in the field supporting our major focus on breast milk-derived infant programming.





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