



Assessing the Role of Diet and Nutrients in Immunity, Autoimmunity and Cancer

Guest Editors:

Prof. Dr. Dimitrios P. Bogdanos

Department of Rheumatology and Clinical Immunology, Faculty of Medicine, University of Thessaly, 41110 Larissa, Greece

Dr. Abdulla Watad

Sheba Medical Center, Tel-Hashomer, University of Tel Aviv, Israel

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Message from the Guest Editors

Dear Colleagues,

The role of diet and nutrients in shaping the immune system has started to emerge. Experimental data from animal studies have shown that dietary habits and constituents can significantly alter immunological functions affecting both humoral (antibody) and cellular immune responses. The interaction of the innate and adaptive immune systems with other systems can be influenced by alterations in diet, dietary restrictions, or excesses consumption of certain dietary constituents.

Data from experimental studies on animal models of inflammatory diseases have defined the influences of specific nutrients in the homeostasis of the immune system in health and disease states. Auto-antigen-specific and tumor-antigen-related immune responses can be affected by the restriction of protein, calories, or protein and calories. Dietary supplements appear to be instrumental in shaping the immune system, with several playing pivotal roles in promoting anti-inflammatory cytokine production. In particular, the immunoregulatory role of the Mediterranean and Ramazan diets is a research focus.

Dr. Dimitrios P. Bogdanos

Dr. Abdulla Watad

Guest Editors





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Editors-in-Chief

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, Grosspeteranlage 5
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