

Special Issue

Optimal Nutrition and Growth of Very Premature Neonates: How Feasible Is It to Achieve at Present?

Message from the Guest Editors

Over the last few years, there has been a significant shift in the feeding practices and growth targets for premature neonates that have contributed to the further improvements in morbidity, survival and long-term prognosis, even for neonates on the extremes of viability. This period could be considered a Third Era in Neonatology as, in our opinion, the changes observed were greater in effect even compared to the Second Era. Despite some broad agreement between feeding guidelines regarding the protein and calorie content, there remain significant variation and policy disagreements, even within the NICUs of the same countries. There has also been no wider consensus on how to approach special categories of neonates such as those with intrauterine growth restriction, small for gestational age or neonates that develop major morbidities. In this Special Issue, we hope for these to be part of the wider discussion and consensus building around the development of universally accepted practices in the feeding and growing of premature neonates that will help them become healthier children and adults.

Guest Editors

Prof. Dr. Antonios K. Gounaris

Neonatal Clinic-NICU, University General Hospital of Larissa, 41222 Larissa, Greece

Dr. Rozeta Sokou

1. Neonatal Intensive Care Unit, "Agios Panteleimon" General Hospital of Nikea, 18454 Piraeus, Greece

2. Department of Neonatology, National and Kapodistrian University of Athens, 15772 Athens, Greece

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

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Message from the Editorial Board

Nutrients is an on-line open access journal that was first published in 2009. *Nutrients* adheres to rigorous peer-review and editorial processes and publishes only high quality manuscripts that address important issues related to the impacts of nutrients on human health. The Impact Factor of *Nutrients* has risen rapidly since its establishment and it is now ranked in the first quartile of journals publishing in the field of nutrition and dietetics research.

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 (UIBS), 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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