

Special Issue

Perinatal Nutrition: A Strategy to Improve Offspring's Health

Message from the Guest Editors

Fetal development and childhood are life stages characterized by the rapid growth, development, and maturation of organs and systems. Any variation in the quality or quantity of nutrients consumed by mothers during pregnancy, or by neonates during the first year of life, can have powerful and permanent effects on the development of tissues and systems. These effects are called "early nutritional programming" and represent an important risk factor for noncommunicable diseases of adulthood, including metabolic syndrome and cardiovascular disease. Indicators of nutritional deficit in pregnancy are associated with an increased risk of type 2 diabetes and cardiovascular mortality. There is also evidence that suggests some relationship between breastfeeding, the timing and type of food used after weaning, and disease in adulthood. Experimental studies have provided important insights into the mechanisms that link nutrition to homeostatic disturbances in early life and disease in adulthood.

Guest Editors

Prof. Dr. Javier Diaz-Castro

Department of Physiology, Faculty of Pharmacy, Campus Universitario de Cartuja, University of Granada, 18071 Granada, Spain

Prof. Dr. Julio J. Ochoa Herrera

Department of Physiology, Faculty of Pharmacy, Campus Universitario de Cartuja, University of Granada, 18071 Granada, Spain

Deadline for manuscript submissions

closed (30 June 2021)



Nutrients

an Open Access Journal
by MDPI

Impact Factor 5.0
CiteScore 9.1
Indexed in PubMed



mdpi.com/si/49432

Nutrients
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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