

Special Issue

Influence of Maternal Diet and Environmental Factors on Fetal Development

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.

Guest Editor

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Deadline for manuscript submissions

closed (5 August 2024)



Nutrients

an Open Access Journal
by MDPI

Impact Factor 5.0
CiteScore 9.1
Indexed in PubMed



mdpi.com/si/176635

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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.

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