

## Special Issue

# The Role of Natural Compounds in Autoimmune Diseases

### Message from the Guest Editor

A series of natural compounds have been implicated to be useful in regulating the pathogenesis of various autoimmune diseases. The prevalence of autoimmune diseases in the world population is approximately 3%, including such serious diseases as rheumatoid arthritis, multiple sclerosis, type 1 diabetes mellitus, and ulcerative colitis. Autoimmune diseases occur within different tissues, in which they are mainly auto-reactive and finally proliferate in a systemic pathological state. Besides the complexity of the symptoms of these diseases, their treatments have only been palliative. Recent medical research shows that natural compounds (plant-derived natural compounds such as flavonoids, phenolic acids, terpenoids, etc.) could be promising strategies to fight against these autoimmune diseases. Moreover, novel technologies such as network pharmacology, molecular docking, and high-throughput screening have been gradually applied in natural product development. Many effective natural compounds act via the modulation of multiple proteins rather than single targets. Broad interdisciplinary research is the most promising approach to contribute to the treatment of autoimmune disease.

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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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