

Special Issue

Healthier Smile: The Role of Diet and Nutrition in the Prevention and Therapy of Oral Diseases

Message from the Guest Editors

Although oral hygiene and fluorides have a significant impact on everyone's oral health, we must not forget that the causes of oral diseases are often related to malnutrition and other unhealthy behaviors, such as smoking. While dental caries is clearly a diet-related disease, there is also growing evidence that gingivitis and periodontitis are greatly influenced by diet. A peculiarity in this context is that malnutrition with far too much sugar and pro-inflammatory fats and a lack of fiber and micronutrients (which is also what the average Western diet represents) shows up extremely quickly in oral diseases. These develop much more quickly than other diseases also caused by Western diets, such as obesity, diabetes, or atherosclerosis. This in turn presents a great opportunity for dentists and physicians to use nutritional dentistry to initiate healthier diets early on before other secondary diseases manifest themselves—an opportunity for which solely plaque control and fluorides are inadequate.

Guest Editors

Prof. Dr. Johan Peter Woelber

Policlinic of Operative Dentistry, Periodontology, and Pediatric Dentistry, Medical Faculty Carl Gustav Carus, Technische Universität Dresden, Dresden, Germany

Dr. Kirstin Vach

Institute of Medical Biometry and Statistics, Faculty of Medicine, University of Freiburg, Stefan-Meier-Str. 26, 79104 Freiburg, Germany

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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 (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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