Special Issue

Bioavailability and Biotransformation of Bioactive Ingredients in Functional Foods

Message from the Guest Editors

In recent years, biotransformation has increasingly been utilized as a tool to generate bioactive compounds from functional foods. Biotransformation can be defined as a specific modification (or modifications) of a chemical compound to a product with structural similarity by means of biological catalysts. A wide variety of bioactive ingredient functional food, including aromatics, steroids, alkaloids, coumarins, flavonoids, and terpenoids, can be biotransformed by yeasts, bacteria, enzymes, and gut microbes derived from these sources. Biochemical reactions occurring in microorganisms and organisms are typical, including hydroxylation, dehydrogenation, methylation, etc., used to modify the chemical structure of a bioactive substrate resulting in the formation of metabolites that maintain the core structure of the substrate. Such an approach could ultimately benefit the advancement of biotransformation and potential therapeutics.

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