

Special Issue

Dietary Modulation of the Immune Function: Direct and Microbiota Dependent Effects

Message from the Guest Editor

Diet is critical in maintaining optimal immune function. Extensive research has demonstrated the immunomodulatory properties of particular nutrients. In this regard, some dietary components are able to modulate the immune response by interacting directly with the mucosal and systemic immune cells, activating receptors (e.g., vitamins) or changing membrane properties or modulating gene expression (e.g., fatty acids). However, some nutrients may influence immune function indirectly, after being metabolized by the microbiota, either by generating new active components (e.g., polyphenol metabolites, short-chain fatty acids derived from fibre) or just by shaping microbial composition and functionality (e.g., probiotics and prebiotics), which in turn, will affect the immune response. We invite authors to submit review articles and original research describing effects and mechanisms underlying the relationship between nutrition, microbiota and immunity.

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Deadline for manuscript submissions

closed (10 May 2021)



Nutrients

an Open Access Journal
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Impact Factor 4.8
CiteScore 9.2
Indexed in PubMed



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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.

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