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Vitamin E

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Message from the Guest Editor

The purpose of this Special Issue is to present recent investigations on the role of vitamin E as antioxidant in health promotion or disease prevention, as well as results on non-antioxidant activities of vitamin E. It is also important to show recent developments for vitamin E in structural characterization of bioactive, endogenous metabolites, and the use of vitamin E in industry.

Vitamin E was first described in 1922 as a necessary dietary factor for reproduction in rats. In contrast to most other vitamins showing a cofactor function or a unique molecular role, such a specific vitamin E function, has not yet been shown. Vitamin E is an important lipophilic antioxidant, protecting in cell membranes. In food, there are four tocopherols and four tocotrienols. In contrast, the most important compound *in vivo* is α -tocopherol. The hepatic α -tocopherol transfer protein is one reason for this discrimination. Another explanation is the preferential metabolism of non- α -tocopherol congeners by ω -hydroxylation and β -oxidation. Recent investigations showed interesting biological activities of long-chain metabolites of vitamin E.



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Special Issue



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Message from the Editor-in-Chief

It has been recognized in medical sciences that in order to prevent adverse effects of “oxidative stress” a balance exists between prooxidants and antioxidants in living systems. Imbalances are found in a variety of diseases and chronic health situations. Our journal *Antioxidants* serves as an authoritative source of information on current topics of research in the area of oxidative stress and antioxidant defense systems. The future is bright for antioxidant research and since 2012, *Antioxidants* has become a key forum for researchers to bring their findings to the forefront.

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