

Marine Probiotics and Prebiotics: Characterization and Prospects for the Development of New Drugs/Nutraceuticals

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Message from the Guest Editors

Marine environments are a huge source of natural products and microorganisms with nutritional and biological impact on the host, of both animal and human origins. Well-documented evidence has demonstrated how probiotics, of human and fish origins, in feed or rearing water, may help in recovering symbiosis between gut microbiota and the host. This has increased efforts in development of probiotic products for aquaculture use. Successful strategies targeting health promotion and disease prevention of host have also focused on prebiotic compounds in complimentary function to probiotic modulation. Potential marine-derived prebiotics are found in seaweeds and microalgae among other organisms, and include alginates, fucoidans, carrageenans and exopolysaccharides. Current research has been focusing on the study of the beneficial mechanisms of prebiotics and probiotics, on technological challenges to be overcome when incorporation in feed, food and nutraceutical products as well as on safety and regulatory aspects.

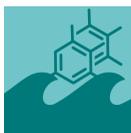
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Guest Editors





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Message from the Editor-in-Chief

During the past few decades there has been an ever increasing number of novel compounds discovered in the marine environment. This is exemplified by the robust preclinical and clinical pipeline that currently exists for marine natural products. *Marine Drugs* is inviting contributions on new advances in marine biotechnology, pharmacology, chemical ecology, synthetic biology, and genomics approaches related to the discovery of therapeutically relevant marine natural products. Our goal is to share your contribution in a timely fashion and in a manner that will be valued by the scientific community.

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