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Non-pharmaceutical Antioxidant Agents for Animal and Human Health

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Message from the Guest Editor

Reactive oxygen species (ROS) are highly reactive molecules that play important roles in cellular functions in animals and humans. When present in excess, ROS are cytotoxic. Under normal physiologic conditions, the levels of these reactive molecules are regulated by the body's antioxidant system. Oxidative stress results when the production of ROS exceeds the capacity of neutralizing antioxidants to detoxify excess ROS. Oxidative stress has been linked to a wide range of pathophysiological conditions, including inflammatory disorders, joint, cardiovascular, neurological diseases, metabolic disease such as diabetes mellitus, cancer, and aging. Some pharmacologic agents are reported to be efficacious in counteracting the adverse effects of oxidative stress. However, experimental and clinical studies have not provided consistent confirmatory evidence for the antioxidative stress efficacy of these drugs. Scientific interest has turned to non-pharmacologic agents as alternative therapies. This special issue focuses on plant-based agents as candidates to mitigate oxidative stress in aging and disease.

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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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