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Regulatory Effects of Curcumin

Guest Editors:

Dr. Jean-Marc Zingg
Department of Biochemistry and Molecular Biology, Miller School of Medicine, University of Miami, Miami, FL 33136, USA

Prof. Dr. Kiyotaka Nakagawa
Laboratory of Food Function Analysis, Graduate School of Agricultural Science, Tohoku University, Sendai 980-8577, Japan

Dr. Taiki Miyazawa
New Industry Creation Hatchery Center (NICHe), Tohoku University, Sendai 980-8579, Japan

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Message from the Guest Editors

Curcumin, the main bioactive polyphenol present in the turmeric plant *Curcuma longa*, has beneficial effects for the treatment and prevention of several diseases. Recently studies indicate that curcumin and its metabolites may modulate several signal transduction and gene expression pathways by interacting with and affecting the activity of specific enzymes and proteins. Curcumin derivatives, novel pharmacological formulations, nanocarriers, and improved delivery systems have been developed that can enhance the otherwise relatively low bioavailability of curcumin and increase its bioactivity in the human body. During uptake from the diet, curcumin may also modulate the intestinal microbiome, leading to indirect regulatory effects.

In this Special Issue of Antioxidants, the molecular regulatory effects of curcumin are reviewed, and their relevance for the prevention of diseases such as cancer, inflammation, neurodegeneration, cognitive disorders, obesity, atherosclerosis, diabetes, dyslipidemia, and liver diseases such as non-alcoholic steatohepatitis (NASH) is evaluated.

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Editor-in-Chief

Prof. Dr. Alessandra Napolitano
Department of Chemical Sciences, University of Naples "Federico II", Via Cintia 4, I-80126 Naples, Italy

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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Contact Us

Antioxidants Editorial Office
MDPI, Grosspeteranlage 5
4052 Basel, Switzerland

Tel: +41 61 683 77 34
www.mdpi.com

mdpi.com/journal/antioxidants
antioxidants@mdpi.com
𝕏@antioxidants_OA