



New Functional Food Ingredients to Improve Health

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Message from the Guest Editors

Functional foods improving physical, mental, or emotional wellbeing are foreseen by consumers and scientists, since the interplay between the diet and the microbiota–gut–brain axis is known to have a pivotal role in the metabolic, immune, and nervous systems.

The recovery of natural compounds bearing promising bioactivities is still the focus of many research efforts, including their purification from food wastes and by-products, and the prospect of new bioactivities from natural sources such as plants, animals, microorganisms and algae. The implementation of these bioactives into functional foods/nutraceuticals is still limited by two major challenges: (i) stabilization of the bioactives and (ii) controlled release at the target site.

The development of new functional food ingredients demands a comprehensive study of their production and characterization, their stabilization using food-grade polymers, and the testing of their functionality and bioaccessibility/bioavailability using in vitro tools or organ-on-a-chip technologies.

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Message from the Editor-in-Chief

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