



The Importance of Taste on Dietary Choice: Modulation of Taste Sensitivity

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Message from the Guest Editors

Dear Colleagues,

Appetitive sweet, umami and salty tastes guide us to select foods which are high in energy and that maintain ionic balance. However, sweet and salty tastes are also associated with increased ingestion of sugar and salt, a contributing factor in the increased prevalence of taste-related chronic diseases. Significant progress has been made in the identification of receptors and downstream signaling effectors involved in the transduction of bitter, sweet, umami, salty and sour tastes. Such taste stimuli not only elicit their own stimuli-specific taste but also often result in either enhancement or suppression of other taste responses. Therefore, such stimuli can be potentially used as novel strategies to enhance the sweet taste sensitivity to potentially reduce sugar intake or the aversiveness of bitter tastes to increase acceptance of nutritious foods that taste bitter. In this Special Issue, we will summarize recent advances in the modulation of taste sensitivity, identification of taste modulators, their underlying mechanism of action in psychophysical, neural and cellular models and their potential role in taste recognition.





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