



The Role of Natural Compounds in Autoimmune Diseases

Guest Editor:

Dr. Katarína Bauerová

Centre of Experimental Medicine,
Institute of Experimental
Pharmacology and Toxicology,
Slovak Academy of Sciences,
Dúbravská Cesta 5826/9, SK-841
41 Bratislava, Slovakia

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Message from the Guest Editor

A series of natural compounds have been implicated to be useful in regulating the pathogenesis of various autoimmune diseases. The prevalence of autoimmune diseases in the world population is approximately 3%, including such serious diseases as rheumatoid arthritis, multiple sclerosis, type 1 diabetes mellitus, and ulcerative colitis. Autoimmune diseases occur within different tissues, in which they are mainly auto-reactive and finally proliferate in a systemic pathological state. Besides the complexity of the symptoms of these diseases, their treatments have only been palliative. Recent medical research shows that natural compounds (plant-derived natural compounds such as flavonoids, phenolic acids, terpenoids, etc.) could be promising strategies to fight against these autoimmune diseases. Moreover, novel technologies such as network pharmacology, molecular docking, and high-throughput screening have been gradually applied in natural product development. Many effective natural compounds act via the modulation of multiple proteins rather than single targets. Broad interdisciplinary research is the most promising approach to contribute to the treatment of autoimmune disease.





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Prof. Dr. Lluís Serra-Majem

1. Centro de Investigación Biomédica en Red Fisiopatología de la Obesidad y la Nutrición (CIBEROBN), Institute of Health Carlos III, 28029 Madrid, Spain
2. Research Institute of Biomedical and Health Sciences (IUIBS), University of Las Palmas de Gran Canaria, 35001 Las Palmas, Spain
3. Preventive Medicine Service, Centro Hospitalario Universitario Insular Materno Infantil (CHUIMI), Canarian Health Service, 35016 Las Palmas, Spain

Prof. Dr. Maria Luz Fernandez

Department of Nutritional Sciences, University of Connecticut, Storrs, CT 06269, USA

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MDPI, Grosspeteranlage 5
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