



Regulatory Role of Vitamin D and Its Derivatives in the Immune System

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Deadline for manuscript submissions:

closed (10 August 2023)

Message from the Guest Editors

During the last 3 decades, scientific breakthroughs in laboratory investigations and clinical medicine have revealed new biological functions of vitamin D that are of high importance for human health and that are closely connected with the immuno-regulatory effects of this secosteroid hormone. A large body of laboratory investigations have now demonstrated that vitamin D is a key factor regulating both innate and adaptive immunity. These laboratory investigations provide convincing supportive evidence for clinical studies in translational medicine that have recently targeted the vitamin D endocrine system as a promising tool for the pharmacological prevention and treatment of a broad variety of pathological inflammatory conditions, including allergies, infections and many autoimmune diseases. This special issue of *Nutrients* summarizes our present understanding of the role of vitamin D for the immune system. We give an outlook on present concepts and future directions of this hot topic that have now opened many new promising research avenues for clinical and laboratory research.





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