

Special Issue

Carotenoid Biomarkers of Dietary Exposure and Nutritional Status

Message from the Guest Editor

Carotenoids are lipophilic isoprenoid compounds synthesized by photosynthetic organism and some non-photosynthetic prokaryotes and fungi. Humans cannot synthesize carotenoids, so they must be obtained from diet. Some of them are used as precursors for the production of retinoids such as vitamin A, in addition, carotenoids display other biological functions that may confer beneficial effect against chronic diseases (i.e., lutein in the eye and brain). However, positive and negative health effects have been found or are correlated with carotenoid intake and tissue concentrations, thus, more data from human nutritional studies, including health and disease markers (preferably analytical and clinically validated), are needed to issue recommendations with regard to carotenoid intake or desired blood or tissue concentrations.

This Special Issue encourages the submission of original research, meta-analyses and reviews of the scientific literature on the aforementioned issues and also on methodological, host-related and modulating factors relevant in assessing and interpreting carotenoid biomarkers of nutritional dietary intake/exposure and nutritional status in human health and disease.

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Nutrients is an on-line open access journal that was first published in 2009. *Nutrients* adheres to rigorous peer-review and editorial processes and publishes only high quality manuscripts that address important issues related to the impacts of nutrients on human health. The Impact Factor of *Nutrients* has risen rapidly since its establishment and it is now ranked in the first quartile of journals publishing in the field of nutrition and dietetics research.

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