

Special Issue

Recent Advances in Natural Product Drugs

Message from the Guest Editors

Natural products represent an area of research which has made tremendous progress in the last two decades, with a substantial increase in natural compounds identified in an increasing number of plant and animal sources, a similar rise in non-clinical testing of natural compounds for a variety of potential therapeutic applications, and a considerable development of clinical trials for natural compounds and combinations thereof. Natural products—in the past, the only available medicines—continue to be the basis for about half of the drugs currently available, either in their natural form or as semi-synthetic derivatives with improved pharmacokinetic, pharmacodynamic, or safety properties. While the number of plant species known today is estimated to be about 400,000, those that have been even cursorily investigated for their phytochemical compositions comprise a minority, which means that this field remains, largely, a terra incognita. Additionally, marine life, other animal organisms, fungi, and microorganisms are also territories of knowledge that remain largely unexplored. This Special Issue aims to report research relevant to this area.

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