



Fetal–Maternal–Neonatal Metabolomics

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Deadline for manuscript
submissions:

closed (20 March 2023)

Message from the Guest Editors

Dear Colleagues,

The maternal–fetal–neonatal axis plays a critical role in determining the risk of developing complications during pregnancy and childbirth as well as the effect of these complications on maternal and infant health outcomes. Early diagnosis of these complications is challenging mostly because they are complex syndromes with multiple causes and underlying mechanisms.

The metabolomics of the maternal–fetal–neonatal axis is a rapidly expanding field of research relating maternal metabolic characteristics and health before and during pregnancy, to infant and maternal health outcomes. Metabolomics, by analysis of small molecule metabolism present in biological samples taken at different stages of a pregnancy, offers a window to investigate metabolic aspects of increasingly prevalent conditions including maternal obesity, gestational diabetes, infection, fetal growth restriction, preterm birth, and environmental exposures, influencing optimal outcomes for postnatal maternal and infant health and for infant development.

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Message from the Editor-in-Chief

The metabolome is the result of the combined effects of genetic and environmental influences on metabolic processes. Metabolomic studies can provide a global view of metabolism and thereby improve our understanding of the underlying biology. Advances in metabolomic technologies have shown utility for elucidating mechanisms which underlie fundamental biological processes including disease pathology. *Metabolites* is proud to be part of the development of metabolomics and we look forward to working with many of you to publish high quality metabolomic studies.

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