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Influence of Diet and Eating Disorders during Pregnancy and Lactation on Health Outcomes in Offspring

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Message from the Guest Editors

Dear Colleagues,

The alterations in the diet and nutritional status during pregnancy and early life can lead to relevant and permanent effects on the development of tissues and systems. Diseases such as type 2 diabetes, coronary or cerebrovascular disease, osteoporosis, high blood pressure, metabolic syndrome, etc., can be influenced by these conditions that occur during these critical periods of development. In the presence of malnutrition or eating disorders, the fetus responds with a series of adaptations, including the alteration of the energy reserve and the redistribution of energy for the development of the brain, heart and adrenal gland, reducing blood flow to other organs, leading to permanent changes in blood pressure and metabolism. This mechanism, also known as the thrifty phenotype hypothesis, would explain the relationship between intrauterine growth restriction and the increased risk of obesity, hypertension, osteopenia, diabetes and cardiovascular disease. Therefore, diet plays a critical role in health conditions and programming effects.

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Guest Editors

Special Issue



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Message from the Editorial Board

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