





Editorial

Natural Compounds against Cancer, Inflammation, and Oxidative Stress

Claudio Tabolacci ^{1,2} **Cinzia Forni** ³
Ravirajsinh N. Jadeja ⁴ and **Francesco Facchiano** ²

¹Department of Medicine, University Campus Bio-Medico, Rome, Italy

²Department of Oncology and Molecular Medicine, Istituto Superiore di Sanità, Rome, Italy

³Department of Biology, University of Rome “Tor Vergata”, Rome, Italy

⁴Department of Biochemistry and Molecular Biology, Medical College of Georgia at Augusta University, Augusta, GA, USA

Correspondence should be addressed to Claudio Tabolacci; claudiotabolacci@tiscali.it

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Natural products, compounds derived from animals, microorganisms and, especially, from plants, have been used in prevention and treatment of various human diseases for thousands of years. Some of these bioactive compounds, which have beneficial effects on human health, are also present in foods and beverages. In recent years, the interest towards the use of natural compounds and their derivatives has been renewed, even for the discovery and development of new drugs [1].

Phytochemicals show positive effects on human health by a large variety of mechanisms, including epigenetic modifications, modulation of signal transduction and metabolic pathways, and regulation of antioxidant enzymes activity [2, 3]. This is the reason why they have been extensively studied for their anticancer activities, through the potential modulation of cancer initiation and growth, cellular differentiation, apoptosis and autophagy, angiogenesis, and metastatic dissemination. Moreover, several active herbal compounds are tested in human clinical trials, used as adjuvants with conventional anticancer therapies in order to reduce side effects like nausea and fatigue [4].

Further, phytochemicals are considered today potent and effective weapons against several human diseases, due to their mechanism of action that in many cases is against oxidative stress. In fact, a considerable number of studies reported the use of natural compounds for their anti-inflammatory

activity, since inflammation is considered the basis of various disease conditions, including cancer. The use of herbal preparation in combination with suitable diet represents also one of the most promising strategies to treat metabolic disorders like diabetes, obesity, and metabolic syndrome [5]. Moreover, due to their several biological activities, natural compounds represent good candidates for preventing and even curing the effects of neurodegenerative diseases.

The aim of this Special Issue was to provide a contribution in collecting new findings in the use of natural products against cancer, inflammation, and oxidative stress. After a careful peer review process, twenty-one papers were accepted for publication in this Special Issue, including three review articles and one clinical study.

Conflicts of Interest

The Guest Editors report no conflicts of interest.

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Claudio Tabolacci
Cinzia Forni
Ravirajsinh N. Jadeja
Francesco Facchiano

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