Environmental & Dietary Health Risk Science
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Editorial

Welcome to *Environmental & Dietary Health Risk Science*: Aims, Vision and an Invitation to Contribute

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1. A New Journal for a Long-Standing Concern

It is a great privilege to introduce the first issue of *Environmental & Dietary Health Risk Science* (*EDHRS*), a new peer-reviewed, open access journal published quarterly online by Scilight Press. I am honored to have been appointed its Editor-in-Chief, and I thank the publisher for the confidence placed in me and for the opportunity to help shape a journal from its very beginning.

Human beings are exposed every day to a wide range of chemical, physical and biological agents. Some of these agents reach us through the air we breathe, the water we drink and the soil on which we live and grow our crops. Many others reach us through what we eat. Food is, at the same time, a source of nutrition, a cultural pillar of every society and a major route of exposure to contaminants, residues, additives, natural toxins and pathogens. Therefore, environmental and dietary exposures are not two separate problems. They are two closely interconnected dimensions of the same challenge, and their associated health risks are best understood when assessed together.

This conviction is the reason why *EDHRS* was created. Over many years of work in toxicology, environmental health and food safety, and through my previous experience as Editor-in-Chief of journals such as *Food and Chemical Toxicology* and *Environmental Research*, I have seen how often relevant studies fall between disciplinary boundaries. A paper on the occurrence of a contaminant in the environment, a paper on its transfer to the food chain, a toxicological study of its mechanisms and an epidemiological study of its effects in a population may each be excellent. However, they are frequently published, read and cited in separate communities. *EDHRS* aims to bring them to the same table.

2. Aims and Scope

EDHRS publishes research on the health risks derived from human exposure to chemical, physical and biological agents present in the environment and in the diet. The journal promotes multidisciplinary work that connects the following links of the risk chain: the sources of exposure; the environmental and food-chain transfer of agents; the toxicological mechanisms that explain their effects; the epidemiological evidence in human populations, and the assessment and management of the resulting risks.

EDHRS is addressed to researchers, health and food-safety professionals, regulators and policymakers, who share a common interest in human health and in safe food and environmental systems. Studies that integrate several of these links, or that translates scientific evidence into information useful for risk assessment, risk management and public health decisions, will be especially welcome.

3. What We Hope to Offer

Our ambition is that *EDHRS* to become a reliable and rigorous forum for the following: *Integration across disciplines*: We encourage studies that combine, for example, exposure assessment with toxicology, or food-chain

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monitoring with biomonitoring and epidemiology, as well as studies that bridge environmental science, nutrition and public health. *Scientific quality and transparency*: Sound experimental design, appropriate statistical analysis, clear reporting of methods and honest discussion of limitations are the basis of trustworthy risk science. Manuscripts will be evaluated through independent peer review, with scientific validity and relevance to health risk as the main criteria. Well-conducted studies with confirmatory or null results are valuable for risk assessment and are welcome. *Relevance for decision-making*: Risk assessment is ultimately a tool to protect health. Consequently, we will value contributions that help to interpret data for regulation, food and environmental safety, and public health policy, including critical analyses of uncertainty and of the strengths and weaknesses of current approaches. *Attention to emerging issues*: New contaminants, new food technologies and production systems, changing environmental conditions and novel analytical and computational approaches continuously pose new questions about exposure and risk. In this sense, *EDHRS* wishes to be a place where such questions can be discussed early and in depth. *Ethical standards*: The journal is committed to high standards of research and publication ethics, to fair and constructive peer review, and to the responsible and transparent use of any new tools in research and writing.

The specific article types accepted, the manuscript preparation requirements and the editorial and peer review policies are available on the journal website. Authors are encouraged to consult them before submitting.

4. An Invitation to Authors, Reviewers and Readers

A new journal is built, above all, by its community. Therefore, I would like to invite researchers working in toxicology, environmental health, food safety, nutrition, epidemiology, exposure science, risk assessment and related fields to consider *EDHRS* as a home for their best work, and to submit original research and other contributions that fit the scope described above.

There are also two practical points that I would like to highlight. First, as a gold open access journal, *EDHRS* makes all its content freely available to readers worldwide, which we believe is particularly appropriate for science that serves public health. Second, to encourage submissions during the launch phase, Article Processing Charges (APCs) are waived before October 2028, which means that articles are published free of charge if accepted. We hope that these conditions will make it easier for authors from all regions and institutions to take part in this new project.

I also invite colleagues to contribute as reviewers and, in due course, as members of the editorial community of the journal. Constructive and timely peer review is essential to the success of any scientific journal, and the quality of *EDHRS* will depend on it.

5. Looking Ahead

The challenges that link the environment, the food we eat, and human health are not going to diminish. Climate and land-use change, industrial and agricultural practices, the growing complexity of chemical mixtures and the globalization of the food supply all demand robust scientific evidence, produced with rigor and communicated with clarity. I am confident that *EDHRS* can contribute to this effort by offering a transparent, multidisciplinary and accessible platform.

We look forward to receiving your manuscripts, your comments and your suggestions, and we warmly welcome you to *Environmental & Dietary Health Risk Science*.

Conflicts of Interest

The author is the Editor-in-Chief of Environmental & Dietary Health Risk Science.