

## Preface

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# Preface

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Nanotechnology is poised to revolutionize the food and pharmaceutical sectors, offering unprecedented opportunities to enhance product quality, safety, and therapeutic efficacy. The integration of nanomaterials into these industries has opened new frontiers, enabling innovations that can address some of the most pressing challenges in health and nutrition. This special issue on "State-of-the-art Nanomaterials Revolutionize Food and Pharmaceutical Sector" presents a collection of eight papers that delve into the latest research and developments in this transformative field.

Nanomaterials, with their unique properties such as high surface area, tunable porosity, and enhanced reactivity, are being increasingly employed in various applications across the food and pharmaceutical industries. These materials are not only improving the shelf life and safety of food products but are also enhancing the delivery and efficacy of pharmaceutical agents. However, with these advancements come challenges, particularly regarding the biosafety and environmental impact of nanotechnology. It is imperative that as we push the boundaries of what is possible with nanomaterials, we also ensure that their use does not compromise human health or environmental sustainability.

This special issue highlights the exploration of advanced nano-encapsulation techniques designed to protect sensitive active ingredients from degradation, thereby extending their efficacy. These techniques are crucial in developing next-generation pharmaceuticals, where controlled release and targeted delivery are essential for maximizing therapeutic outcomes. The papers in this issue cover a broad spectrum of topics, reflecting the diverse

applications of nanomaterials. For instance, using nanocomposites in food packaging enhances mechanical strength and prevents fouling, illustrating the multifaceted role of nanotechnology in advancing food safety and quality. Additionally, the development of nanoparticle-based sensors for rapid pathogen detection underscores the significant implications of nanomaterials for both food safety and public health.

In the pharmaceutical sector, the focus shifts to nanocarriers and nanoformulations that improve the bioavailability and stability of active ingredients, ensuring that therapeutic agents are delivered more effectively to their target sites. This central theme of nanotechnology in drug development is complemented by research on nanoparticle-aided metabolomics profiling, which provides deeper insights into drug mechanisms and their metabolic pathways. Collectively, these studies underscore the transformative potential of nanotechnology in enhancing therapeutic efficacy and safety, paving the way for innovative solutions in pharmaceutical and food safety applications.

As the field of nanotechnology continues to grow, so too does the need for comprehensive risk assessment and regulation. This issue also highlights the importance of developing safety guidelines and conducting thorough evaluations of the potential toxicity and environmental impact of nanomaterials. By addressing these concerns, we can ensure that the benefits of nanotechnology are realized without compromising safety.

We are pleased to present this collection of papers, which we believe will contribute significantly to the ongoing discourse on the role of nanotechnology in

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the food and pharmaceutical sectors. We would like to extend our gratitude to the authors for their valuable contributions and to the reviewers for their insightful feedback. We hope that this special issue

will inspire further research and innovation in this exciting field. Also, a special thanks to Ms. Lily Chiu, the executive editor of JFDA, for her efforts and time in making this special issue possible.