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| 1. Record Nr. | UNINA9910598196803321 |
| Titolo | Marine polysaccharides . Volume 3 // Paola Laurienzo, editors |
| Pubbl/distr/stampa | Basel : , : MDPI AG - Multidisciplinary Digital Publishing Institute, , [2018] ©2018 |
| Descrizione fisica | 1 online resource (574 pages) |
| Disciplina | 540 |
| Soggetti | Chemistry Polysaccharides |
| Lingua di pubblicazione | Inglese |
| Formato | Materiale a stampa |
| Livello bibliografico | Monografia |
| Nota di contenuto | About the Special Issue Editor vii -- Preface to "Marine Polysaccharides" ix -- Paola Laurienzo Marine Polysaccharides in Pharmaceutical Applications: An Overview doi: 10.3390/md8092435 1 -- Maria Filomena de Jesus Raposo, Alcina Maria Bernardo de Moraes and Rui Manuel Santos Costa de Moraes -- Marine Polysaccharides from Algae with Potential Biomedical Applications doi: 10.3390/md13052967 25 -- Matias J. Cardoso, Rui R. Costa and Joaõ F. Mano Marine Origin Polysaccharides in Drug Delivery Systems doi: 10.3390/md14020034 72 -- Lucas Chollet, Pierre Saboural, Cdric Chauvierre, Jean-Nol Villemin, Didier Letourneur and Frdric Chaubet -- Fucoïdians in Nanomedicine doi: 10.3390/md14080145 99 -- Janet Helen Fitton -- Therapies from Fucoïdan; Multifunctional Marine Polymers doi: 10.3390/md9101731 123 -- Randy Chi Fai Cheung, Tzi Bun Ng, Jack Ho Wong and Wai Yee Chan Chitosan: An Update on Potential Biomedical and Pharmaceutical Applications doi: 10.3390/md13085156 147 -- Garry Kerch -- The Potential of Chitosan and Its Derivatives in Prevention and Treatment of AgeRelated Diseases doi: 10.3390/md13042158 173 -- Emilia Szymaska and Katarzyna Winnicka Stability of Chitosan-A Challenge for Pharmaceutical and Biomedical Applications doi: 10.3390/md13041819 193 -- Alexa Klettner -- Fucoïdan as a Potential Therapeutic for Major Blinding Diseases-A Hypothesis doi: 10.3390/md14020031 217 -- Mar´a Blanco, Javier Fraguas, Carmen G. Sotelo, |

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Sommario/riassunto

The field of marine polysaccharides is constantly evolving, due to progress in the discovery and production of new marine polysaccharides. Seaweed remains the most abundant source of polysaccharides, but recent advances in biotechnology have allowed the production of large quantities of polysaccharides from a variety of micro-algae, by controlling growth conditions and tailoring the production of bioactive compounds in a bioreactor. Of particular interest are polysaccharides produced by micro-organisms from extreme marine environments, due to their recognized different biochemistry. Extracellular polysaccharides (EPSs) with unique properties produced by a number of micro-algae are known. The first volume is a collection of papers concerning the identification and characterization of novel marine polysaccharides. It is divided into three chapters; the first two are dedicated to polysaccharides from different marine sources (algae, micro-algae, animals), while the third one gathers information on the isolation, characterization and bioactivity of new EPSs.
