

Letter to the Editor

Comment on the Special Issue – Green Tea and Cancer

Edited by Anna H. Wu

I am writing to you to congratulate you on the special issue in *Mol. Nutr. Food Res.* As pointed out clearly in the Editorial there is an element of tension and challenge between the immense public health interest for the potential health benefits of green tea, on the one hand, and the currently meagre experimental and observational evidence to recommend green tea intake for the prevention of specific cancers, on the other hand. This promotes the green tea subject to one of the hottest issues both in science and medicine.

It is not surprising that green tea becomes a more and more attractive topic for the media, interestingly more in countries in which green tea consumption is low when compared with China. Suddenly, papers describing solitary case studies, for instance, the report in which Werner Hunstein professor emeritus of

haematology describes his self-treatment of AL-amyloidosis with drinking green tea [1] receive enormous attention. Likewise, experimental results that describe the extraordinary therapeutic potency of the green tea polyphenol EGCG [2] receive unexpected attention now both in the scientific literature and public media.

What is now needed is interest on the side of the chemists. Their challenge is to find a way to synthesize EGCG. Clearly, with this special issue on green tea and cancer a strong signal is set which may encourage research in this direction.

References

- [1] Hunstein, W., Epigallocatechin-3-gallate in AL amyloidosis: a new therapeutic option? *Blood* 2007, 110, 2216.
- [2] Bieschke, J., Russ, J., Friedrich, R. P., Ehrenhofer, D. E. et al., EGCG remodels mature alpha-synuclein and amyloid-beta fibrils and reduces cellular toxicity. *Proc. Natl. Acad. Sci. USA* 2010, 107, 7710–7715.

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