



Melatonin in Normal Physiology and Disease

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Deadline for manuscript
submissions:

30 June 2024

Message from the Guest Editor

In mammals, melatonin is synthesized in virtually all cells of the body, where it functions as an autocrine or paracrine messenger and as a cytoprotective agent by virtue of its detoxifying and antioxidant properties. However, it is the melatonin synthesized in the pineal gland that circulates in the blood in a circadian fashion, playing a vital role in the body. In fact, pineal melatonin transduces light as a basic environmental cue into an endocrine signal capable of synchronizing the entire organism during the photoperiod. As a result, virtually all physiological processes are affected, and deranged pineal melatonin production is associated with various pathological states. Melatonin activates two high-affinity membrane receptors, the specific contribution of which to most of its effects is still not clear. This Special Issue aims to gather research articles or reviews on the role of melatonin in normal physiology and diseases.





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