Mechanisms Underlying Alleviation of Pain

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Deadline for manuscript submissions:
closed (30 November 2019)

Message from the Guest Editor

Pain is a complex, multidimensional sensory experience critical to our survival—protecting us from harm by alerting us of impending trauma or bodily injury. Although acute pain is adaptive in nature, pathological pain resulting from disease or injury is maladaptive in the long-term, when it becomes a chronic state. Both types of pain can be debilitating, negatively affecting millions of individuals worldwide, leading to impaired daily function and decreasing overall quality of life. Recent advances in the treatment of both acute and chronic pain has lifted this burden to some degree, with the development of novel pharmacological and non-pharmacological treatment options, including analgesic substances, such as COX-2 and TNF-α inhibitors, as well as non-traditional therapeutic interventions for pain alleviation, such as neuromodulatory stimulation techniques, cognitive behavioral therapy, and acupuncture. However, the neurobiological mechanisms mediating these effects in the periphery and centrally, within the brain and spinal cord, are still a matter under intense investigation.

mdpi.com/si/17288

Special Issue

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Message from the Editor-in-Chief

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