Special Issue

Enteric Nervous System in Health and Disease

Message from the Guest Editor

The enteric nervous system (ENS) is a complex division of the peripheral nervous system and regulates gastrointestinal functions. Even with its local reflex circuits, the ENS can work autonomously, communicating bidirectionally with the central nervous system and other parts of the peripheral nervous system.

Recent data have elucidated that the gut–brain axis has a role in the development of neurodegenerative diseases or neuropsychological disorders. In addition, given the growing evidence showing the key role of the gut microbiota in physiology, the investigation of the microbiota–gut–brain axis provides a new research direction for the study of gastrointestinal and neurological diseases.

The pathological alterations of the ENS can cause not only gastrointestinal diseases but more complex disorders. This Special Issue is open for original research articles and reviews focusing on the physiological and pathological states of ENS. The understanding of these will contribute to the identification of common pathophysiologic features underling gastrointestinal dysfunctions, and for providing further insights for new therapeutic and treatment strategies.

Guest Editor

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Message from the Editor-in-Chief

As the world of science becomes ever more specialized, researchers may lose themselves in the deep forest of the ever increasing number of subfields being created. This open access journal *Applied Sciences* has been started to link these subfields, so researchers can cut through the forest and see the surrounding, or quite distant fields and subfields to help develop his/her own research even further with the aid of this multi-dimensional network.

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