Future Challenges for the Diagnosis and Management of Affective Disorders: From Preclinical Evidence to Clinical Trials

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Message from the Guest Editors

The diagnosis and management of affective disorders have been influenced by new clinical and research evidence in recent decades, including the role of glutamate, neuro-inflammation, genetic findings, etc. These biological achievements have led to new treatments based on physical therapies (e.g., magnetic stimulation) or pharmacological trials (e.g., esketmine).

These new trends and paradigms led to a broader clinical characterization of affective disorders including different factors related to patients, or to the therapeutic encounter and relationship. Additionally, new biomarkers and biological tools, alongside the psychopathological rating scales, have been proposed for the diagnosis or phenotyping of affective disorders. Particular attention has been paid to depression in special populations, such as the elderly or perinatal depression, and the impact of illness on mothers' health and newborn development. Not least, psychosocial interventions specifically conceived for mood disorders have been introduced alongside psycho-pharmacotherapies. All these themes will be addressed in this Special Issue.

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Special Issue

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Message from the Editor-in-Chief

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