Special Issue

The Perils of Social Media Addiction

Message from the Guest Editor

The evolution of social media has transformed it from simple social networking sites to omnichannel platforms that permeate nearly every facet of modern life, continually tethered to our mobile devices. As these platforms become ubiquitous, they present new challenges and risks, particularly for mental health. Social media now serves as a central channel for everything from personal communication to eCommerce, making the line between functional use and dependency increasingly blurred. Compounding these issues, artificial intelligence and emerging technologies further shape this landscape, driving engagement, personalizing content, and influencing user behavior in ways often opaque to both users and researchers. This Special Issue of *Brain Sciences* invites contributions that extend beyond the study of addiction itself to explore the deeper processes, impacts, and intervention strategies surrounding social media dependency. Through a multidisciplinary lens, this Special Issue provides an opportunity to examine social media addiction as a critical concern for mental health research.

Guest Editor

Prof. Dr. Mike Zhengyu Yao

1. Institute of Communications Research, University of Illinois Urbana-Champaign, Urbana, IL, USA
2. Carle Illinois College of Medicine, University of Illinois Urbana-Champaign, Urbana, IL, USA

Deadline for manuscript submissions

30 September 2025

Brain Sciences

About the Journal

Message from the Editor-in-Chief

You are invited to contribute a research article or a comprehensive review for consideration and publication in *Brain Sciences* (ISSN 2076-3425). *Brain Sciences* is an open access, peer-reviewed scientific journal that publishes original articles, critical reviews, research notes, and short communications on neuroscience. The scientific community and the general public can access the content free of charge as soon as it is published.

Editor-in-Chief

Prof. Dr. Stephen D. Meriney
Department of Neuroscience, University of Pittsburgh, Pittsburgh, PA 15260, USA

Author Benefits

High Visibility:

indexed within Scopus, SCIE (Web of Science), PubMed, PMC, Embase, PSYNDEX, PsycInfo, CAPlus / SciFinder, and other databases.

Rapid Publication:

manuscripts are peer-reviewed and a first decision is provided to authors approximately 16.2 days after submission; acceptance to publication is undertaken in 1.9 days (median values for papers published in this journal in the first half of 2025).

Recognition of Reviewers:

reviewers who provide timely, thorough peer-review reports receive vouchers entitling them to a discount on the APC of their next publication in any MDPI journal, in appreciation of the work done.