

Special Issue

Neural Substrates of Opioid Reward and Addiction: From Bench to Bedside

Message from the Guest Editors

Opioids are used to treat moderate-to-severe pain. However, their acute and chronic use leads to side effects such as respiratory depression, constipation, tolerance, dependence, and addiction, which is characterized by a loss of control over compulsive drug-seeking and drug-taking behaviors. However, the mechanisms underlying rewarding and addictive actions in opioids have not yet been fully characterized. Recent evidence implicates neuropeptides in the rewarding and addictive effects of opioids. This Special Issue will delineate the role of neuropeptides in opioid-induced antinociception, reward, and dependence. Preclinical research works and clinical trials using cutting-edge approaches are preferred. However, basic and clinical studies using established approaches and advancing science are also welcome. Studies determining the role of neuropeptides in opioid-induced antinociception, reward, and reinforcement, dependence on opioids, and the negative affective states associated with opioid withdrawal are welcome.

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