Special Issue

Understanding the Pathophysiology and Treatment of Alcohol, Drugs, and Addictive Behaviors

Message from the Guest Editor

SUDs and addictive behaviors are chronic and relapsing brain diseases with genetic, neurodevelopmental, and sociocultural contributors. While less is known of addictive behaviors, drugs of abuse are mediated by the brain reward circuitry and act on D1 and D2 receptors via the striatal and corticostriatal pathways, respectively. Repeated exposure to drugs trigger neuroplastic changes that may be measured from the cell to the network level. Shared and overlapping pathophysiology is observed with severe mental illness and may thus underlie the high prevalence of co-morbidity. It is therefore possible that treatments for severe mental illness (or vice versa) may be effective for SUDs. Notwithstanding, there is an urgent need for a greater understanding of the pathophysiology of SUDs and addictive behaviors to optimize innovative and effective treatments for many of those suffering now and after COVID-19.

This Special Issue welcomes meta-analyses, systematic and scoping reviews or opinions and original articles on addiction and its treatment.

Guest Editor

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Deadline for manuscript submissions

closed (15 November 2021)

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