

Special Issue

Substance Abuse and Mental Health

Message from the Guest Editor

Dear Colleagues, The causes of substance use disorders and other mental illnesses are similar and include genetic and epigenetic vulnerabilities, problems with related brain regions, and environmental influences such as early stress or trauma exposure. In addition, drug use and addiction can be influenced by mental diseases. Although some medications may momentarily lessen mental illness symptoms, they can also worsen them over the long term. Finally, substance use disorders and substance use can have a negative impact on mental health. Some of the same brain regions that are affected by other mental diseases, such as schizophrenia, anxiety, mood, or impulse-control disorders, might change as a result of substance use. A predisposition to developing a mental disease may be sparked by drug use that occurs before the onset of the first symptoms by altering the structure and function of the brain. This Special Issue of *Brain Sciences* aims to publish original articles, critical reviews, research notes, and short communications that investigate and/or discuss the intersection between substance use behaviors and mental disorders.

Guest Editor

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Deadline for manuscript submissions

closed (30 November 2023)



Brain Sciences

an Open Access Journal
by MDPI

Impact Factor 2.8
CiteScore 5.6
Indexed in PubMed



mdpi.com/si/155993

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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.

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