Special Issue

Recent Advances in Immune-Mediated Cerebellar Ataxias: Pathogenesis, Diagnostic Approaches, Therapies, and Future Challenges

Message from the Guest Editors

The clinical category of immune-mediated cerebellar ataxias (IMCAs) has been established after 3 decades of clinical and experimental research. IMCAs include diverse etiologies, including paraneoplastic cerebellar degeneration (PCD), post-infectious cerebellitis, gluten ataxia, and anti-GAD ataxia. Recent remarkable progress has clarified various characteristics of these etiologies and therapeutic strategies in terms of immunotherapies. Some patients whose clinical profiles do not match those of classic types are now gathered in a spectrum of primary autoimmune cerebellar ataxia (PACA). It is still unclear how immune tolerance is broken, leading to autoimmune insults of the cerebellum, and how cerebellar circuits are damaged by antibody- or cell-mediated mechanisms. Antibodies may specifically target the cerebellar circuitry and impair synaptic mechanisms (synaptopathies). The present Special Issue aims to illuminate what is solved and what is unsolved in clinical practice and pathomechanisms of IMCAs.

Guest Editors

Prof. Dr. Mario Ubaldo Manto

Fonds de la Recherche Scientifique - FNRS, Brussels, Belgium

Dr. Hiroshi Mitoma

Medical Education Promotion Center, Tokyo Medical University, Tokyo 160-0023, Japan

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Editorial Office
MDPI, Grosspeteranlage 5
4052 Basel, Switzerland
Tel: +41 61 683 77 34
brainsci@mdpi.com

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Editor-in-Chief

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

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