Special Issue

Understanding the Neurobiology of Social Withdrawal and Avoidance: Exploring Brain Structure, Function, Neural Processes, and Biological Markers

Message from the Guest Editor

The concept that humans are inherently social beings, supported by influential 20th-century studies in anthropology, ethology and psychology, and the Aristotelian idea that ‘man being is a social animal by nature’, is being challenged by the recent literature. The emerging corpus of the literature reveals a widespread occurrence of social withdrawal and avoidance behaviour (SWA), leading to a "silence epidemic" of social isolation and reclusive lifestyles worldwide.

Although the magnitude and phenomenology of SWA have received attention, there is a lack of research examining the structure, function, neural processes and biological markers of the brain associated with SWA. Exploring these biological markers and neuropsychological profiles holds great potential to gain valuable insights into the underlying mechanisms of SWA. By understanding the neurobiological and cognitive aspects of these behaviours, researchers and clinicians can develop targeted interventions that address the specific challenges and impairments faced by individuals. This Special Issue highlights the critical need for more research, advancing our understanding of such behaviour.

Guest Editor

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