

## Special Issue

# The Role of Opioid Peptides in Psychostimulant Addiction

### Message from the Guest Editor

Opioid peptides are found in the central nervous system and peripheral nervous system and have long been implicated in the modulation of pain, the regulation of the stress response, feeding, motivated behaviors, etc. Opioid peptides have also been known to regulate the activity of the mesolimbic dopaminergic neurons that are associated with the rewarding and reinforcing actions of addictive drugs. Accumulating evidence suggests that opioid peptides are also involved in the rewarding and reinforcing actions of amphetamine and cocaine. A comprehensive review of the role of each opioid peptide in the rewarding and reinforcing actions of amphetamine and cocaine is essential. This research topic focuses on the role of opioid peptides in the rewarding and reinforcing actions of psychostimulants as well as negative affective states, such as anxiety, depression, and anhedonia, which are associated with withdrawal from such reinforcers. This research topic is also expected to establish a link between opioid peptides and the development of psychostimulant addiction and other neuropsychiatric disorders associated with the continued use of these drugs as well as following their withdrawal.

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### Deadline for manuscript submissions

closed (25 February 2020)



## Brain Sciences

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Impact Factor 2.8  
CiteScore 5.6  
Indexed in PubMed



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