Special Issue

Longitudinal Assessment of Alcohol Exposure on Brain and Behavior

Message from the Guest Editors

Alcoholism is a complex disease that typically begins with alcohol experimentation and use early in development. Early childhood and early to late adolescence have been shown to be critical periods during which the developing brain is particularly susceptible to alcohol's effects. Alcohol administration during development has been shown to facilitate adulthood dependence. Importantly, behavioral/personality traits have been utilized to determine predictability of escalation to increased alcohol use and abuse. Recent studies have begun to examine this important issue from a developmental perspective in both males and females. Alcohol addiction is a progressive disease that does not typically begin in adults, rather during a time of rapid brain development. Investigating and addressing the impact of alcohol and the developmental progression of addiction, is paramount to understanding how to mitigate alcohol's impact on the brain (molecular to behavioral mechanisms) and, ultimately, society.

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