

Special Issue

Recent Changes in Drug Abuse Scenario: The Novel Psychoactive Substances (NPS) Phenomenon

Message from the Guest Editor

In parallel with a decrease/stabilization in the use of internationally controlled drugs, the market of novel psychoactive substances (NPS) continues increasing, year after year, with the Internet playing a pivotal role in contributing to this complex scenario. At times, although misleading, the terms 'legal highs' or 'research chemicals' have been used to describe these molecules. Overall, about 5% of 19–24-year-old European people have already experimented with them, because both NPS' intense psychoactive effects and their virtual non-detectability in routine drug screenings.

Guest Editor

Prof. Dr. Fabrizio Schifano

Psychopharmacology, Drug Misuse and Novel Psychoactive Substances Research Unit, School of Life and Medical Sciences, University of Hertfordshire, Hertfordshire AL10 9AB, UK

Deadline for manuscript submissions

closed (5 March 2018)



Brain Sciences

an Open Access Journal
by MDPI

Impact Factor 2.8
CiteScore 5.6
Indexed in PubMed



mdpi.com/si/10120

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

[mdpi.com/journal/
brainsci](http://mdpi.com/journal/brainsci)





Brain Sciences

an Open Access Journal
by MDPI

Impact Factor 2.8
CiteScore 5.6
Indexed in PubMed



[mdpi.com/journal/
brainsci](http://mdpi.com/journal/brainsci)



About the Journal

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.

Editor-in-Chief

Prof. Dr. Stephen D. Meriney

Department of Neuroscience, University of Pittsburgh, Pittsburgh, PA 15260, USA

Author Benefits

High Visibility:

indexed within Scopus, SCIE (Web of Science), PubMed, PMC, Embase, PSYNDEX, PsycInfo, CAPlus / SciFinder, and other databases.

Rapid Publication:

manuscripts are peer-reviewed and a first decision is provided to authors approximately 17.6 days after submission; acceptance to publication is undertaken in 2.5 days (median values for papers published in this journal in the second half of 2025).

Recognition of Reviewers:

reviewers who provide timely, thorough peer-review reports receive vouchers entitling them to a discount on the APC of their next publication in any MDPI journal, in appreciation of the work done.