Special Issue

Dimensions of Pathological Aggression: From Neurobiology to Therapy

Message from the Guest Editors

Considering the devastating consequences of aggressive and violent behavior, a better mechanistic understanding of the phenomenon is of high relevance. The extreme and pathological form in many mental disorders poses a major burden. Growing empirical evidence corroborates the influence of (neuro)biological factors and complex interactions between social-environmental and biological, genetic influences in the development of aggressive pathology. Being exposed to aggression and violence early in life has severe consequences for mental health. The transdiagnostic turn in psychiatry and the combination with cognitive constructs may pave the way for new innovative ways to tackle the challenge. Can we define biomarkers and subtypes of aggression with specific underlying neuropsychobiological patterns and characteristics that allow a better transdiagnostic use in terms of a more personalized treatment approach? Parallel applications of non-invasive modulation techniques and developments in psychotherapeutic interventions integrating such new biocognitive fingerprints are needed to break through the vicious cycle of aggression and violence.

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