

Special Issue

Legal and Illegal Drug Abuse in Adolescents and Young Adults: Challenges, Comorbidities, Treatment and Use as Therapeutics

Message from the Guest Editor

Adolescence and young adulthood represent periods of increased sensitivity to reward and risk taking, impulsive actions, and decision making. These differences in behaviour reflect a time of neurodevelopment when the prefrontal cortex in particular is still not fully developed. High risk and impulsive behaviours include, among others, experimentation with drug use, including drinking, smoking and cannabis use, and can further expand to psychostimulant, opioid, and psychedelic drug use. Numerous genetic, environmental, social, and other neuropsychiatric factors, such as related comorbidities, can come on the way and further influence engagement with drugs of abuse. On the other hand, at least in some of these cases, some of these legal or illegal drugs of abuse are used in a therapeutic manner to treat co-existing neuropsychiatric disorders or other health conditions.

Guest Editor

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Message from the Editor-in-Chief

Addressing the environmental and public health challenges requires engagement and collaboration among clinicians and public health researchers. Scientific discoveries and advances in this research field play a critical role in providing a rational basis for informed decision-making toward control and prevention of human diseases, especially the illnesses that are induced from environmental exposure to health hazards.

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