

Special Issue

Opioids: A Challenge to Public Health

Message from the Guest Editors

Overdosing among people exposed to opiates may take one of at least two forms. On one hand, there is accidental overdosing resulting from excessive administration of opiate drugs for various purposes (mainly sedation or painful syndromes). On the other hand, overdosing is one possible consequence of a symptomatic behavior found in opiate addiction. Furthermore, other cases may be due to intentional self-poisoning, in other words, suicidal behavior.

A reasonable response to overdose epidemics should certainly be based on overdose prevention, rather than antidote optimization, considering that adequate means of prevention are so easy to implement. In the thinking of an addictionologist, the issue of overdose prevention is closely connected with the wider issues of addiction treatment and harm reduction and looms as highly dependent on the effectiveness of treatments to put off cravings and reduce impulsive drug-using behavior.

Guest Editors

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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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