

Special Issue

Novel Mechanisms and Drug Molecules Modulating Chronic Pain

Message from the Guest Editors

Chronic pain is largely heterogenous in its clinical manifestations and has been divided into seven categories: (1) chronic primary pain, (2) chronic cancer pain, (3) chronic posttraumatic and postsurgical pain, (4) chronic neuropathic pain, (5) chronic headache and orofacial pain, (6) chronic visceral pain, and (7) chronic musculoskeletal pain. Such a diversity of disorders reflects a varied etiology as well as complex underlying pathophysiological mechanisms, ultimately involving the somatosensory system at the peripheral and/or central levels. Multiple extracellular messengers, physical and chemical stimuli-sensing receptors, intracellular signal pathways, and cell types (neural and non-neural) are known to intervene and interact to perpetuate and amplify pain perception. Importantly, many of these molecular and cellular players can be potentially targeted in an attempt to relieve chronic pain. This Special Issue will focus on basic science and translational research aiming to investigate novel molecular targets and cellular mechanisms involved in chronic pain generation, and on novel chemical entities developed for pain alleviation.

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