Special Issue

The Role of Norepinephrine in Neuroprotection

Message from the Guest Editors

I am pleased to announce this Special Issue entitled "The Role of Norepinephrine in Neuroprotection". Most of brain norepinephrine (NE) is produced by neurons belonging to the locus coeruleus (LC), which send their efferents to the whole cortical mantle and to several subcortical structures. LC is degenerated early and significantly in several neurodegenerative disorders, and especially in Parkinson's and Alzheimer's disease. Thus, NE released by LC may play a critical role in the physiopathology of the neuronal degeneration occurring in these diseases. Several studies in the last few decades have shown a neuroprotective effect of NE on the neuronal damage induced by different neurotoxins. This has been evaluated by several authors in vivo. after administration in different animal species of the neurotoxins specific to dopaminergic nigrostriatal neurons and, more recently, also in vitro. Old studies proposed a key role of the release of growth factors on the neuroprotective effects of NE, whilst more recent studies are disclosing further potential mechanisms.

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Message from the Editor-in-Chief

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