# **Special Issue**

# Exploring Enteric Glia: Implications for Gastrointestinal and Systemic Disorders

## Message from the Guest Editor

Gastrointestinal (GI) reflex functions are directly regulated by the enteric nervous system (ENS), a network of neurons and glial cells within the gut wall. Unlike neuronal cell bodies, enteric glia are present in all layers of the gut wall, including mucosa and muscle. They are strategically positioned to mediate interactions between the innervation and other cell types in the bowels. Enteric glial cells are recognized as local regulators of gut functions in health and disease. These glial cells actively regulate intestinal reflexes such as gut motility and secretomotor function, and in inflammation, enteric glia change their phenotype and mediate pathophysiology. Gut dysfunction affects not only the GI system but overall well-being; conversely, many systemic disorders also affect intestinal function. Therefore, enteric glia are implicated in intrinsic intestinal and extraintestinal disorders, including inflammatory bowel disease, irritable bowel syndrome, and metabolic, neurodegenerative, and neurodevelopmental disorders. This Special Issue explores the novel roles of enteric glial cells in the pathophysiology of GI and systemic disorders.

#### **Guest Editor**

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### Deadline for manuscript submissions

closed (31 May 2025)



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