Special Issue

Opioids and Their Receptors: Present and Emerging Concepts in Opioid Drug Discovery

Message from the Guest Editors

Central directions in opioid research include structure–activity/function relationships, biochemistry of the receptors, understanding of opioid receptor-mediated actions and the linkage between therapeutic effects, side effects and molecular mode of action, and new therapeutic opportunities and novel tools/technologies. The topics of this Special Issue cover drug design, molecular modeling and synthesis, structure–activity relationships on ligands with distinct properties (agonists, antagonists, partial agonists, biased agonists, allosteric modulators and ligands acting at multiple opioid receptors) or selective site of action (central, peripheral), drug screening, opioid pharmacology, pain research, animal models of diseases, and any other topics related to the field of opioid research.

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As the premier open access journal dedicated to molecular chemistry, now in its 30th year of publication, the papers published in *Molecules* span from classical synthetic methodology to natural product isolation and characterization, as well as physicochemical studies and the applications of these molecules as pharmaceuticals, catalysts, and novel materials. Pushing the boundaries of the discipline, we invite papers on all major fields of molecular chemistry and multidisciplinary topics bridging chemistry with biology, physics, and materials science, as well as timely reviews and topical issues on cutting-edge fields in all of these areas.

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