

Special Issue

Opioids and Their Receptors

Message from the Guest Editor

Opioids, such as morphine, are the oldest analgesic drugs that we know of and are widely used as therapeutic agents against moderate to severe acute and chronic pain. However, these analgesics are characterized by several limitations, such as the development of analgesic tolerance, addiction, and others adverse effects that often result in patients non-compliance. All clinically used opioids are μ -opioid receptor agonists, and the major adverse effects are directly or potentially connected to this receptor. The aim of this Special Issue is to highlight recent advances in the basic pharmacology of opioids, with particular attention paid to the mitigation of their side effects and to the development of new safer medications in order to manage pain as well as addiction and overdose prevention. This Special Issue welcomes original articles, communications, and review articles on recent advances and emerging concepts in opioid drug discovery and, more generally, opioid research.

Guest Editor

Dr. Laura Micheli

Department of Neuroscience, Psychology, Drug Research and Child Health, University of Florence, 50139 Florence, Italy

Deadline for manuscript submissions

closed (28 February 2024)



Molecules

an Open Access Journal
by MDPI

Impact Factor 4.6
CiteScore 8.6
Indexed in PubMed



mdpi.com/si/115535

Molecules
Editorial Office
MDPI, Grosspeteranlage 5
4052 Basel, Switzerland
Tel: +41 61 683 77 34
molecules@mdpi.com

[mdpi.com/journal/
molecules](https://mdpi.com/journal/molecules)





Molecules

an Open Access Journal
by MDPI

Impact Factor 4.6
CiteScore 8.6
Indexed in PubMed



[mdpi.com/journal/
molecules](https://mdpi.com/journal/molecules)



About the Journal

Message from the Editor-in-Chief

As the premier open access journal dedicated to molecular chemistry, now in its 29th 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.

Editor-in-Chief

Prof. Dr. Thomas J. Schmidt

Institute of Pharmaceutical Biology and Phytochemistry, University of Münster, Corrensstrasse 48, D-48149 Münster, Germany

Author Benefits

High Visibility:

indexed within Scopus, SCIE (Web of Science), PubMed, MEDLINE, PMC, Reaxys, CaPlus / SciFinder, MarinLit, AGRIS, and other databases.

Journal Rank:

JCR - Q2 (Biochemistry and Molecular Biology) / CiteScore - Q1 (Organic Chemistry)

Rapid Publication:

manuscripts are peer-reviewed and a first decision is provided to authors approximately 16.1 days after submission; acceptance to publication is undertaken in 2.6 days (median values for papers published in this journal in the first half of 2025).