

## Special Issue

# Long Acting Drug Delivery Formulations

### Message from the Guest Editor

Long-acting drug delivery formulations are specialized pharmaceutical systems designed to release active drug compounds gradually over an extended period, ranging from weeks to months or even years, depending on the formulation. The goal is to maintain therapeutic drug levels in the body with fewer doses, enhancing patient compliance and therapeutic outcomes. These formulations reduce the need for frequent dosing by controlling the release rate of the drug and often employ advanced drug delivery technologies such as biodegradable polymers, microspheres, liposomes, or implants. Their benefits include the following:

- Improved patient adherence by reducing the dosing frequency.
- Steady-state drug levels, minimizing the peaks and troughs associated with frequent dosing.
- Reduced side effects due to consistent drug release.
- Targeted delivery to specific tissues in some formulations, enhancing efficacy and minimizing off-target effects.

These formulations are widely used in treating chronic conditions, where long-term drug administration is necessary, such as in hormonal therapies, psychiatric medications, or pain management.

### Guest Editor

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