



## Bipolar Spectrum Disorders: Longitudinal Factors Associated with Risk and Improvement

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### Message from the Guest Editors

Bipolar disorder (BD) is a psychiatric illness that usually onsets before adulthood, affects on average 2% of the population, and is associated with high rates of suicidality, Substance Use Disorder, functional impairment, and morbidity. Thus, it is important to identify the factors associated with the course and outcome of BD. In the past decades of clinical research, we have learned much about the effects of variables ascertained at study intakes on the course of BD. Overall, poor prognosis has been associated with lifetime family history of BD and SUD, individual early childhood BD onset, history of exposure to negative life events (e.g., abuse), severe mood symptoms, suicidality, psychosis, comorbid disorders (e.g., anxiety disorders), lower socioeconomic status, and reduced psychosocial functioning. Papers addressing the topic of BD and related conditions are invited for this Special Issue, especially those utilizing a longitudinal research design, and focus on providing new insights on the course of BD.





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## Message from the Editor-in-Chief

Addressing the environmental and public health challenges requires engagement and collaboration among clinicians and public health researchers. Discovery and advances in this research field play a critical role in providing a scientific basis for decision-making toward control and prevention of human diseases, especially the illnesses that are induced from environmental exposure to health hazards. *IJERPH* provides a forum for discussion of discoveries and knowledge in these multidisciplinary fields. Please consider publishing your research in this high quality, peer-reviewed, open access journal.

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