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Environmental Conditions and Autism Spectrum Disorders

Guest Editors:

Dr. Becky Talyn

College of Natural Sciences, California State University, San Bernardino, CA, USA

Prof. Dr. Teresa Dodd-Butera

School of Nursing, Azusa Pacific University, 901 E. Alosta Ave., Azusa, CA, USA

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Message from the Guest Editors

The Center for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) estimates that about 1 in 44 8-year-old children have Autism Spectrum Disorders (ASD). Incidence of ASD have increased dramatically over the last several decades. There is no known single cause identified for this increasing trend, but recent studies have found certain associated factors in environmental conditions, genetics, sex, and health insurance status. Understanding causes of the increase in ASD frequency is complicated by this likely contribution of multiple factors. For example, exposures to air pollution, organophosphates, herbicides, and stress related to disasters have been investigated as factors related to ASD. This special issue aims to bring together information that addresses the relationship between a variety of environmental factors (broadly defined) that contribute to ASD. The specific aims are to explore trends, mechanisms, and circumstances of toxic exposures and environmental stressors and the associated role in ASD, [...]

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