

Special Issue

Psychedelic Drugs and Beyond

Message from the Guest Editors

Dissociative drugs, encompassing psychedelic, hallucinogenic drugs, have been the object of numerous studies to better understand their mechanisms of action. Recurrent targets of research include the N-methyl-D-aspartate glutamatergic receptors for ketamine or phencyclidine and the serotonin 2A receptor (5-HT_{2A} receptor) subtype for serotonergic hallucinogenic drugs, including LSD25, psilocin, and mescaline, although this list can easily be implemented with kappa receptors and salvinorin-A. Interest in these molecules surpasses their powerful action on consciousness, as a growing volume of clinical and experimental data indicate their possible use in a variety of conditions including mood disorders. Some of these compounds, namely ketamine, LSD25, and psilocine, have been used in the treatment of depression, with a rapid onset action lasting for days to weeks. The purpose of this Special Issue is to collect original research articles and reviews that concern the mechanism of action of these fascinating drugs. Contributions from different fields of research are welcomed in addition to the pure molecular aspects.

Guest Editors

Prof. Dr. Philippe De Deurwaerdere

Neurocampus Department, UMR 5287 CNRS, University of Bordeaux,
146 Rue Léo Saignat, 33076 Bordeaux, France

Dr. Franck Vandermoere

IGF - Institut de Génomique Fonctionnelle, CNRS UMR 5203, Inserm
U1191, Université de Montpellier, 141, rue de la Cardonille, 34094
Montpellier CEDEX 5, France

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Prof. Dr. José L. Quiles
Department of Physiology, Institute of Nutrition and Food Technology
"Jose Mataix", Biomedical Research Center, University of Granada,
Avda. Conocimiento s/n, 18100 Armilla, Granada, Spain

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