



A Special Class of Messenger Molecules in the Central Nervous System: The Neuropeptides at the Interplay between Function and Dysfunction

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Deadline for manuscript
submissions:

closed (30 September 2019)

Message from the Guest Editors

In the 1970s, an endogenous peptide was found in nerve cells, and the term “neuropeptide” was then introduced. Chemically, neuropeptides have a less complex three-dimensional structure and are smaller than normal proteins, but they are larger than classic neurotransmitters. Since neuropeptides and their receptors not only are present in neurons and glial cells but also are widely expressed in non-neural cells, neuropeptide functions range from neuromodulators to neuro-hormones, from immune-modulators to growth factors.

The aim of the present Special Issue is to explore and highlight the emerging roles of neuropeptide systems across several functions and dysfunctions of neurons and neural networks. The study of the impact of neuropeptides and their receptors on the pathogenesis of CNS disorders is an area that at present is almost totally unexplored, but, at the same time, may turn out to be extremely important in the design of new therapeutics. We invite authors to contribute with original research at the molecular, cellular, and tissue levels, that will help to better define the contribution of neuropeptides to various aspects of CNS physiopathology.





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