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Molecular Mechanisms in Pain Signaling Pathways

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Message from the Guest Editors

Dear Colleagues,

The medicinal treatment of chronic pain of various etiologies requires the use of opiates and/or opioids, which evoke adverse side effects at the organismal level and are highly addictive. For this reason, the world is experiencing an opioid crisis, representing one of the worst public health crises in history. When pain as a sensation loses its informational and protective function and becomes chronic, this pathology can be corrected only by drug administration. Regretfully, there are no safe and effective analgesics that can replace opiates in the arsenal of clinical medicine.

A possible approach to help solve this challenging problem is to modulate the functional activity of ion channels encoding the nociceptive information. The desire to specifically eliminate this high-frequency impulse activity component of polymodal nociceptors, leaving the signals of other modalities intact, forces us to look for novel approaches to the creation of fundamentally new, effective, and safe drugs that can replace opiates and opioids in clinical practice.

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Message from the Editor-in-Chief

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