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Psychedelics: A New Drug Candidate for Treating Mental Illness

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Message from the Guest Editors

With the need to develop new drugs that are effective, safe, and have an acceptable risk–benefit balance, we have recently seen renewed interest in psychedelic research from both the scientific and pharmaceutical communities. “Magic” mushrooms contain natural psychedelics such as psilocybin and psilocin. Furthermore, compared with natural molecules, laboratories can synthesize the psychedelics essential for rational drug design.

This Special Issue aims to bring together both original articles and comprehensive reviews of research into psychedelics. Topics of interest for this Special Issue include pharmacokinetics of psilocybin and its active form, psilocin; hepatic and intestinal enzymatic interactions that may give rise to active psilocybin metabolites; preclinical studies in mice and the impact of psychedelics on neuronal growth; current human clinical trials and the proven effects of psilocybin on relapse prevention in the maintenance of alcohol abstinence; and possibilities of producing a stable, easy-to-absorb psilocybin to maximize pharmacokinetic parameters and limit drug interactions with other alcohol dependence medications.



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