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Current and Future Therapeutic Approaches to the Fentanyl Crisis

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Message from the Guest Editor

The opioid epidemic driven by fentanyl is a clear and present danger to our society. Fentanyl in itself and when purposefully or accidentally taken with other drugs such as cocaine, heroin and methamphetamine (there is growing instances of these drugs being laced with fentanyl) leads to deaths via opioid-induced respiratory depression (OIRD) and also to addiction and physical dependence. Current medical assistance treatment (MAT) programs developed to treat heroin use disorder, such as those incorporating buprenorphine, are not proving successful for fentanyl use disorder. Moreover, opioid receptor antagonists are proving less than efficacious in attempting to reverse OIRD caused by fentanyl and especially fentanyl in combination with other drugs that disturb respiratory function such as those mentioned above. This Special Issue "Current and future therapeutic approaches to the fentanyl crisis " seeks inputs (reviews, commentaries, original research articles) from clinicians and scientists on (1) current state of the fentanyl crisis and MAT programs, (2) development of novel approaches and therapies for fentanyl-induced addiction and dependence and fentanyl-induced OIRD.



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Special Issue



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