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Recent Advances in Psychopharmacology

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Message from the Guest Editors

Dear Colleagues,

Performing clinical trials in psychiatry is a challenge as it is difficult to include a sufficient number of patients and assess reliable outcome parameters, and due to the fact that drug companies have stopped almost all psychopharmaca discoveries. In general, the availability of new psychopharmaca to patients takes nearly nine years, and the likelihood of drug approval in psychiatry is only 6.2%. Thus, novel strategies in psychiatry are urgently needed.

Today, medication selection in psychiatry relies on a trial-and-error approach based mainly on physicians' experience. Pharmacogenetic testing can help in this process by determining the person-specific genetic factors. In this Special Issue, some exciting examples of newly registered medications in psychiatry will be described, in addition to recent pharmacogenetic advances including the start of a clinical trial implementing pharmacogenetics in people with mood, anxiety, and psychotic disorders.

Prof. Dr. Roos Van Westrhenen

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