

Announcement of 2016 Special Issue: The behavioural pharmacology of oxytocin

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Originally identified as a hormone involved in the regulation of childbirth and milk production, oxytocin is now known to be produced in specific cells in the brain where it is involved in a multitude of effects that go far beyond maternal bonding. Heralded in the popular press as 'the love hormone', oxytocin plays a prominent role in social bonding and communication. Not surprisingly, it has therefore been implicated in several major psychiatric disorders including social anxiety disorder, schizophrenia and autism spectrum disorders, all of which are accompanied by deficits in social behaviour and communication. However, in recent years, research into the role of oxytocin has gained momentum with the identification of its role in many other aspects of behaviour, including emotional regulation, reward and pain. As a result, the field is rapidly expanding, and as the options for affecting oxytocin neurotransmission increase, so too does our understanding of its essential role in the brain and in behaviour. The aim of this Special Issue is therefore to provide an in-depth overview of our current knowledge on the effects of oxytocin in both social and nonsocial behaviour.

We now invite behavioural pharmacologists working in any area of social behaviour to submit reports of original,

unpublished empirical studies, for inclusion in the Special Issue. Review papers are particularly welcome, but as the Special Issue may include a number of invited reviews these should be discussed with the editors at an early stage to avoid duplication. Also, contributors are requested to ask one of the editors if they are uncertain whether a report of their research would be suitable for inclusion.

All papers should be submitted online at www.editorialmanager.com/bpharm. Contributors are urged to submit as early as possible, and should in any case aim to do so before the end of February 2016. Later submissions might be accepted, but the later the submission received, the higher the likelihood that it may miss the publication deadline. We guarantee, however, that any submission that meets quality standards but is accepted too late for inclusion in the Special Issue will be published as soon as possible thereafter.

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