

Announcement of two special issues: behavioural pharmacology of synaptopathies and psychedelic drugs

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Synaptopathies (Fall, 2022)

Synaptic neurotransmission lies at the heart of nervous system's functioning. Clearly then, alterations in synaptic signal transduction can lead to a variety of neural disorders. Perhaps the most widely known of these disorders include certain movement disorders and myasthenia gravis. More recent interest in synaptic dysfunction has focused on neurodevelopmental and mental disorders such as autism and schizophrenia. As a result, studies on the role of synaptic dysfunction in mental disorders have also identified new leads for the treatment of these disorders.

Psychedelic drugs (Spring, 2023)

Recent years have seen a remarkable increase in research on psychedelic drugs. After the initial synthesis of lysergic acid diethylamide (LSD) in 1938 - probably the first synthesis of a novel psychedelic drug - these types of mood- and perception-altering drugs gained popularity in the 1960s, for both recreational and therapeutic use. Research and interest in psychedelics waned in the 1970s when these drugs became illicit. Ever since the turn of the century though, observations that certain psychedelic drugs, such as LSD, ketamine, MDMA and psilocybin, may have unique therapeutic properties in mental disorders such as depression, anxiety, post-traumatic stress disorder and substance use disorders have spurred renewed interest. In recent years, more rigorously designed clinical trials are being pursued, in addition to an increased focus on the neural mechanism of action of psychedelic drugs.

To highlight the diversity and innovation in these research fields, the next two special issues of *Behavioural*

Pharmacology will be devoted to Synaptopathies (to appear towards the end of 2022) and Psychedelic Drugs (to appear early in 2023). We, therefore, invite scientists in the fields of behavioural pharmacology, experimental psychology, behavioural neuroscience and psychiatry, with an active interest in either synaptopathies or psychedelics, to submit reports of original, unpublished empirical studies, for inclusion in the Special Issue.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. The Editors welcome correspondence from potential authors; so, if you are planning to prepare a paper for submission, do please let us know. Also, please ask one of the Editors if you are uncertain whether a report of your research would be suitable for inclusion.

All papers should be submitted online at www.editorial-manager.com/bpharm. Contributors are urged to submit as early as possible and should in any case aim to do so before the end of **May 2022 (Synaptopathies)** or **July 2022 (Psychedelics)**. Later submissions might be accepted, but the later your submission is 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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