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## Assessment and Treatment of Children and Adolescents with Functional Somatic Disorders

Guest Editor:

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### Message from the Guest Editor

Dear Colleagues,

Functional somatic disorders are commonly encountered in paediatric medicine. These disorders are characterised by the presentation of somatic symptoms or illness worries that are disproportionate to the history, physical examinations, laboratory tests, and other investigative findings. The diagnostic process is often delayed with a risk of excessive and potentially harmful medical investigations. In addition, there is high psychiatric comorbidity.

Without proper treatment, functional somatic disorders place significant psychosocial, educational, and financial strains on children and their families, as well as a substantial burden on the healthcare system with high healthcare costs. Thus, there is an urgent need for the improvement of models for systematic assessment, diagnostic tools, and the development of specialised treatment across the spectrum of severity. This Special Issue offers a unique opportunity to contribute to a state-of-the-art series on functional somatic disorders in children and adolescents with special emphasis on studies presenting original research on assessment issues and/or new treatment programmes in this area.



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**Special** Issue