



## Oxytocin: Involvement in Metabolic Disorders

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### Message from the Guest Editor

Osteoporosis, osteoarthritis, and overweight/obesity constitute major worldwide public health burdens. Aging is associated with immunosenescence, a decrease in hormonal secretion, lean mass and bone mass, and an increase in fat accumulation. Mesenchymal stem cells represent a common precursor for adipocytes, osteoblasts, and chondrocytes. Obesity, osteoporosis, and osteoarthritis are affected by genetic, environmental factors, and life style. Oxytocin belongs to the pituitary hormone family and regulates the function of peripheral target organs. It also modulates a wide range of behaviors, such as social recognition, love, and fear. The levels of oxytocin decrease with age and are under the control of estrogens. An established crosstalk between bone, adipose tissue, cartilage, and muscle has been evidenced. Several reports, published recently, show clearly that oxytocin could play an important role in the control of metabolic disorders, as well as in autism and Prader–Willi syndrome. Efforts are made to develop an OT-based therapy despite its very rapid turnover.





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