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Microglia and Astrocytes as Drug Targets

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Message from the Guest Editors

Neuroinflammation is driven by the activation of microglia and astrocytes (gliosis) and escalates with demyelination or neurodegeneration in many neurodegenerative or demyelinating diseases, such as Alzheimer's disease (AD), Parkinson's disease (PD), amyotrophic lateral sclerosis (ALS) and multiple sclerosis (MS). In normal physiological condition, glial cells maintain homeostasis in and provide support to the central nervous system (CNS) and participate in the regulation of neuronal and synaptic functions. Upon activation, microglia and astrocytes can be either beneficial or detrimental based on the level or stages of activation. By enhancing beneficial and/or reducing detrimental aspects of glial activation, amelioration of neuroinflammation, demyelination and neurodegeneration can be achieved, although no such therapeutics exists based on our knowledge. Therefore, there is a crucial need to find new therapeutic products that can modulate glial activation to treat neuroinflammatory and neurodegenerative diseases in the future. This is the focus of this Special Issue, which will collect articles investigating microglia and astrocytes-specific drug candidates.



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Special Issue



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