

**CALL FOR PAPERS:**

**SPECIAL ISSUE OF NEUROTOXICOLOGY AND TERATOLOGY**

**UNDERSTANDING OPIOIDS WITHIN A DEVELOPMENTAL CONTEXT**

The recent explosion of opioid addiction and its public health consequences have overwhelmed treatment and community resources. As the population of chronic opioid users expands, it has become clear that the impact of opioid use during different developmental windows may have distinct consequences. Such developmental periods certainly include fetal exposure, which has dramatically increased over the past decade; but also includes use during adolescence and in elderly populations. In addition to the direct effects of opioids, it is now recognized that elevated risk of certain mental illnesses across development can influence both the incidence of and outcomes associated with opioid use disorder. Moreover, the role of polysubstance use on long-term outcomes associated with opioids must also be considered.

Accordingly, *Neurotoxicology and Teratology* is organizing a Special Issue on the theme of “Understanding Opioids within a Developmental Context”, which will be co-edited by Drs. Eiden, Byrnes, and Willford. The focus of this special issue is on advancing current understanding of the opioid problem in the context of developmental science, with age as an important variable. Epidemiologic data and treatment options should also be considered within the context of the age-specific effects of opioid exposure.

Submissions may include:

* Primary data driven reports
* Critical review papers
* Prospective/retrospective human studies
* Empirical *in vivo* or *in vitro* studies using laboratory animals or cell culture systems

The following are examples of relevant topics for this Special Issue:

* Pharmacologic and neurotoxic effects of opioids on age-specific behaviors including pain sensitivity
* Developmental windows of vulnerability to and long-term consequences of opioid use disorder
* Clinical care of opioid-exposed neonates in the immediate postpartum period
* Long-term consequences of prenatal exposure, Neonatal Opioid Withdrawal Syndrome
* Age-specific epidemiological findings in opioid addiction and therapeutic uses of opioid drugs
* Normal development of the endogenous opioid system and the disruptive effects of exogenous opioid exposure
* Neural and/or endocrine mechanisms mediating age differences in the behavioral effects of opioid exposure
* Age-specific prevention strategies for opioid use disorders and overdose

All submissions to this Special Issue will be fully peer-reviewed, and because *Neurotoxicology and Teratology* is abstracted and indexed in BIOSIS, Current Contents/Life Sciences, EMBASE, EMBiology, ETOH, Elsevier BIOBASE, MEDLINE®, Science Citation Index, and Scopus, its contents will be available through typical search engines of the medical literature (e.g., PubMed). The Special Issue will also be circulated to all subscribers of the journal and be accessible via ScienceDirect.

This Special Issue will be in the form of a Virtual Special Issue (VSI), which is an approach to publishing Special Issues that allows us to address one of the most common complaints by authors – slow publication speed. With a VSI, accepted manuscripts are published in the first available regular issue, and corresponding authors will receive 50 days free access to the final published version of their manuscript. Thus, authors do not need to wait until all the Special Issue manuscripts are accepted to have their manuscript published. Simultaneously, articles will appear in a VSI section on the *Neurotoxicology and Teratology* website and on ScienceDirect.

To be considered for inclusion in this Special Issue, please submit your manuscript to *Neurotoxicology and Teratology* by September 1, 2020, via the electronic submission system (https://www.evise.com/profile/#/NTT/login). Manuscripts should be assigned to the category “VSI: Opioids” at the beginning of the submission process, and a cover letter to the Editor should also specify that the submission is targeted for this issue.

We hope that you will consider this invitation seriously and submit your best work to this issue. Recent trends in scientific publication indicate that articles that appear in special issues receive a great deal of attention and we hope that you will take advantage of this opportunity. If you have any questions, feel free to contact one of the Co-Editors. We look forward to your contributions to this Special Issue.

Thank you.

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