

Special Issue on Neural Plasticity and Antidepressant Effects of Complementary and Alternative Medicine

CALL FOR PAPERS

Complementary and alternative medicine (CAM) has been widely used in the world. It mainly comprises herbal medicine, acupuncture, tai chi, qigong, yoga, massage, and so on. Nowadays, the reliability of the therapeutic effect of CAM has been widely proven.

Major depressive disorder (MDD) is a serious public health problem, ranking second in terms of disease burden by 2020. Despite a variety of therapeutic approaches available, the current mainstream western medicine still has remarkable disadvantages in the treatment of such complex diseases. CAM has a long history of combat with this disorder and is still widely practiced as a monotherapy or adjunct therapy for depression and anxiety. A number of herb extracts, isolated active ingredients, or compounds have been shown to confer antidepressant effects comparable to the western drugs. Emerging evidence indicates neural plasticity as the key mechanism of etiology and therapeutic target for depression. Therefore, an increasing number of studies now pay more attention to investigating whether and how neural plasticity plays roles in the antidepressant effects of CAM.

In order to promote advanced research into antidepressant effects of CAM via neural plasticity, we would need to gather the most up-to-date evidence concerning the effective use of CAM for treating depression. We invite authors to submit review and research articles pertaining to this vital field. These articles will cover the fields of molecular, cellular, and systems biology and behavioral aspects of neuropharmacology and neuroscience.

Potential topics include but are not limited to the following:

- ▶ Basic neuropharmacology, neurophysiological, and neurochemical base of CAM for modulation of pathological aspects of depression and anxiety
- ▶ Effective combination of multiple CAM modalities for depression and anxiety
- ▶ Pharmacological evidence of traditional Asian herbal medicines or compounds (e.g., Radix Bupleuri or Xiao Yao San) for the treatment of depression and anxiety
- ▶ Combination of CAM and conventional western medicine for the treatment of depression and anxiety
- ▶ Molecular pathways of neural plasticity involved in the antidepressant and anxiolytic effects of CAM
- ▶ Systematic reviews on efficacy of CAM on depression in relation to neural plasticity

Authors can submit their manuscripts through the Manuscript Tracking System at <http://mts.hindawi.com/submit/journals/ecam/npat/>.

Papers are published upon acceptance, regardless of the Special Issue publication date.

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