

Special Issue on **Mediators of Inflammation in Amyotrophic Lateral Sclerosis**

CALL FOR PAPERS

Amyotrophic lateral sclerosis (ALS) is a late onset neurodegenerative disease characterized by selective loss of upper and lower motor neurons in the brain stem and the ventral horns of the spinal cord. ALS has a marked multifactorial as well as noncell autonomous nature where genetic factors and environmental influences both contribute to the pathogenesis. A strong neuroinflammatory component sustained by activated glia and infiltrated immune cells characterizes the disease. The etiology and pathological mechanisms of ALS are unknown for most patients but are at play long before any sign or symptom becomes apparent. The treatment of ALS patients is currently limited to symptomatic therapy to relieve symptoms such as spasticity and slightly prolong life expectancy. To date, no cure is available.

The last decade has significantly advanced our knowledge on the role of chronic neuroinflammation and maladaptive systemic immune activation in both onset and progression of ALS. Understanding how to successfully balance neuroprotective versus neurotoxic inflammation presents itself as an opportunity to develop novel therapeutic strategies for ALS. This special issue aims to outline current research on the impact of neuroinflammation in ALS. We invite authors to contribute original research as well as review articles to explore the aspects of neuroinflammation and immune activation in patients, animal models, and ex vivo/in vitro systems of ALS. We aim to shed light on the mechanisms and pathways that become deregulated in the disease.

Potential topics include but are not limited to the following:

- ▶ Innate and humoral immune responses taking place in the central and peripheral nervous system and characterizing ALS pathogenesis
- ▶ Neuroprotective versus neurotoxic role of glia in ALS
- ▶ Molecular and cellular mechanisms contributing to neuroinflammation in ALS
- ▶ Novel animal and cellular models to study ALS
- ▶ Biomarkers correlated with neuroinflammation in ALS
- ▶ Peripheral and central anti-inflammatory strategies as potential approaches in the treatment of ALS

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

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First Round of Reviews

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