



Neural Plasticity

Special Issue on
Evolving Biomarkers for Stress-Related Mental Disorders

CALL FOR PAPERS

Unlike other disciplines of medicine, the diagnostic process in psychiatry is mainly based on clinical judgment with rare incorporation of lab-derived objective measures. Even with the advent of DMS-V no biomarkers gathered from genomics, peripheral blood, or brain imaging have been regularly established for the diagnostic process in psychiatric disorders. Clinical psychiatry lags behind others such as oncology, where biomarkers are established for diagnosis, treatment options, and prognosis. Biomarkers for risk estimation or to determine the stage of a mental disorder are still in their infancy.

Some biomarkers are already partly used in clinical settings, for example, amyloid- β -1-42, tau and phosphor-tau-181 proteins sampled from cerebrospinal fluid of patients with mild cognitive impairment potentially predicting a progression to Alzheimer's disease. However, substantial biomarkers for taxonomy, treatment decisions, and disease course prediction in stress-related disorders such as anxiety and mood disorders are still missing.

Stress-related biomarkers for disease risk, treatment response, and vulnerability to environmental and developmental factors could reflect brain neuroplasticity and could facilitate the identification of disease mechanisms of mood, anxiety, and posttraumatic disorders.

We kindly invite investigators to contribute original research articles as well as review articles that seek to address the identification of biomarkers in mood, anxiety, and posttraumatic disorders. A particular interest will be given to studies applying gene association or DNA methylation analysis, gene expression profiling, proteomics, and metabolomics.

Potential topics include, but are not limited to:

- ▶ Biomarkers predicting treatment response or side effects in mood disorders and enabling the application of treatment algorithms
- ▶ Biomarkers predicting switch from unipolar to bipolar depression
- ▶ Biomarkers for endophenotypes of mood or anxiety disorders
- ▶ Hypothalamic-pituitary-adrenal- (HPA-) axis alterations in stress-related psychiatric disorders with special focus on glucocorticoid receptor (GR) signaling (GR sensitivity) and variations of the FK506 binding protein 51 (FKBP5)
- ▶ Biomarkers predicting posttraumatic-stress disorder after trauma
- ▶ Biomarkers predicting suicidality in mood disorders

Authors can submit their manuscripts via the Manuscript Tracking System at <http://mts.hindawi.com/submit/journals/np/ebsr/>.

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