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# "Advances in the pharmacotherapy of neuropathic pain: current challenges and future prospects"

#### **Guest Editors**

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# Special Issue Information

Neuropathic pain is a multidimensional and disabling health condition affecting 7-10% of the general population; its incidence is likely to increase due to the rising age of the global population. Multiple causes of neuropathic pain have been described and they converge into pain originating from a lesion or disease of the central or peripheral somatosensory nervous system, including brain and spinal cord injury, neurodegenerative diseases, multiple sclerosis, diabetes, HIV infection, leprosy, chemotherapeutics, alcohol abuse. The maladaptive response of the complex cell network involved in the transmission and perception of pain dramatically upsets the nociceptive system as well as the physiological substrate of classical painkiller drugs. Despite recent advances in the identification of pain-generating mechanisms and the introduction of evidence-based treatment guidelines, patients suffering from neuropathic pain are difficult to manage. The lack of effective and safe therapies for the treatment of the pain condition, requires many efforts for the medical community to study novel molecular and cellular targets and develop new therapeutic strategies for ameliorating patient's quality of life. This *Special Issue* aims to collect *Review* and *Original papers* about innovative and suitable pharmacological approaches to relieve neuropathic pain as single therapy or as adjuvant to other pain medications.