BRAIN, BEHAVIOR, AND IMMUNITY

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DESCRIPTION

_Brain, Behavior, and Immunity_, founded in 1987, is the official journal of the Psychoneuroimmunology Research Society (PNIRS). This innovative journal publishes peer-reviewed basic, experimental, and clinical studies dealing with behavioral, neural, endocrine, and immune system interactions in humans and animals. It is an international, interdisciplinary journal devoted to original research in neuroscience, immunology, integrative physiology, behavioral biology, psychiatry, psychology, and clinical medicine and is inclusive of research at the molecular, cellular, social, and whole organism level. The journal features online submission and review. Manuscripts are typically peer-reviewed and returned to authors within 30 days of submission, leading to timely publication of experimental results. There are no submission fees or page charges for _Brain, Behavior, and Immunity_, which is published eight times a year. Detailed instructions for authors can be found at http://www.elsevier.com/journals/brain-behavior-and-immunity/0889-1591/guide-for-authors.

Research areas include: Physiological mechanisms that convey messages between the immune and nervous systems and regulate their functionsStress and immunity, including the role of stress-related hormones and neurotransmitters on the immune systemActions of cytokines, growth factors and PAMP activation on neuronal and glial cells that regulate behavior, learning, memory and neurogenesisRole of hormones, growth factors and cytokines in the immune and central or peripheral nervous systemsInteractions between the immune system and brain that are involved in development of neurological, psychiatric, and mental health disordersRole of immunological processes in neurodegenerative disordersThe effects of psychotropic medications on immunological mechanisms and their potential relevance to therapeutic interventionsNeuroimaging studies examining how immunological mechanisms affect brain structure and functionClinical trials and experimental studies testing the effects on both immune stimulation and immune suppression on brain and behaviorThe role of microglia in pain, psychological processes and in psychiatric disordersImmunological mechanisms involved in traumatic brain injury and its resolutionImmunologic disorders, infection and behaviorRole of the immune system in development and maintenance of inflammatory and chronic painImmune mechanisms that regulate the blood-brain-interface (BBI)Immune factors that affect health psychologySleep, exercise, immunity and healthImmune system interactions that affect behavior following use of psychotropic drugs, alcohol and other drugs of abuseHealthy aging of the immune system and brainRole of inflammation and stress during perinatal developmentCancer and its treatment, stem cells and their effects on brain behavior and immunity Reciprocal communication between the microbiome, immune and nervous systemsRegulation of nerve injury and repair by the immune systemPsychosocial, behavioral, and neuroendocrine influences on immunity and on the development and progression of immunologically-mediated diseasesNutrition, inflammation, obesity and behaviorGenomics of behavior and immunity
Manuscripts exploring translational relevance in these research areas can be submitted to the journal's open access companion title, *Brain, Behavior, and Immunity - Health*

**AUDIENCE**

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**ABSTRACTING AND INDEXING**

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Immunophysiology, Immunology, Sickness behaviors
INTRODUCTION

Brain, Behavior, and Immunity, founded in 1987, is the official journal of the Psychoneuroimmunology Research Society (PNIRS). This innovative journal publishes peer-reviewed basic, experimental, and clinical studies dealing with behavioral, neural, endocrine, and immune system interactions in humans and animals. It is an international, interdisciplinary journal devoted to original research in neuroscience, immunology, integrative physiology, behavioral biology, psychiatry, psychology, and clinical medicine and is inclusive of research at the molecular, cellular, social, and whole organism level. The journal features online submission and review. Manuscripts are typically peer-reviewed and returned to authors within 30 days of submission, leading to timely publication of experimental results. There are no submission fees or page charges for Brain, Behavior, and Immunity, which is published eight times a year. Detailed instructions for authors can be found at https://www.editorialmanager.com/bbi/default.aspx.

Research areas include: Physiological mechanisms that convey messages between the immune and nervous systems and regulate their functions Stress and immunity, including the role of stress-related hormones and neurotransmitters on the immune system. Actions of cytokines, growth factors and PAMP activation on neuronal and glial cells that regulate behavior, learning, memory and neurogenesis Role of hormones, growth factors and cytokines in the immune and central or peripheral nervous systems Interactions between the immune system and brain that are involved in development of neurological, psychiatric and mental health disorders Role of immunological processes in neurodegenerative disorders The effects of psychotropic medications on immunological mechanisms and their potential relevance to therapeutic interventions Neuroimaging studies examining how immunological mechanisms affect brain structure and function Clinical trials and experimental studies testing the effects on both immune stimulation and immune suppression on brain and behavior The role of microglia in pain, psychological processes and in psychiatric disorders Immunological mechanisms involved in traumatic brain injury and its resolution Immunologic disorders, infection and behavior Role of the immune system in development and maintenance of inflammatory and chronic pain Immune mechanisms that regulate the blood-brain-interface (BBI) Immune factors that affect health psychology Sleep, exercise, immunity and health Immune system interactions that affect behavior following use of psychotropic drugs, alcohol and other drugs of abuse Healthy aging of the immune system and brain Role of inflammation and stress during perinatal development Cancer and its treatment, stem cells and their effects on brain behavior and immunity Reciprocal communication between the microbiome, immune and nervous systems Regulation of nerve injury and repair by the immune system Psychosocial, behavioral, and neuroendocrine influences on immunity and on the development and progression of immunologically-mediated diseases Nutrition, inflammation, obesity and behavior Genomics of behavior and immunity

Types of Article

Original full-length research reports, full-length review articles, short communications, brief commentaries, and letters to the editor will be considered for publication.

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Viewpoints: These are opinion pieces that provide a personal view on broad, contemporary topics relevant to the interaction between health, brain, behaviour and immunity. Invited by the Editor, they are limited to 900-1000 words and 5-10 references, and will generally be immediately 'open-access' at no costs to the authors.

Letters to the editor: These should be of high scientific quality, contain less than 500 words, and cite no more than 5 scientific references. If the letter is directed to a paper published in Brain, Behavior, and Immunity, the author of that paper will be provided an opportunity to respond. Both the letter to the editor and the author's response will be published simultaneously.

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Study Design: State whether: 1) samples/animals were assigned randomly to various experimental groups (and the specific method of randomization); 2) the data collected was processed randomly and appropriately blocked; 3) experimenters were blind to group assignment and outcome assignment; and 4) an appropriate sample size was computed when the study was being designed.

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Statistical reporting: Authors should identify the precise statistical tests used. In addition, planned comparisons, details of controls and power analyses to determine sample sizes, if applicable, should be reported. Complete results of the statistical analyses, including p values (rather than ranges), degrees of freedom and any estimates of effects size, should be reported in full in the Results section, including all within- and between-subject factors. For multiple comparisons and multiple correlations, define measures taken to reduce Type 1 errors. For neuroimaging studies, methods for controlling for multiple comparisons and the cluster-forming statistical threshold used must be reported. For ANOVAs, and
other multivariate analyses, define measures taken to control for violation of the sphericity assumption and how you report results of corrected degrees of freedom statistics. Finally, state the name and version of the statistical software that was used.

Addressing Sex as a Biological Variable: We ask all authors to ensure proper consideration of sex as a biological variable. For example, any papers utilizing subjects (cells, animals, humans) of only one sex must state the sex of the samples in the title and abstract of the paper, with the obvious exception of sex-specific issues (e.g., prostate or ovarian function). Authors must also state the rationale for using samples from one sex rather than from both. For cellular work, the sex of origin of cells used should be reported, or if cells or tissue from both sexes were used without regard to sex, this fact should be indicated. Finally, the inability for any reason to study sex differences where they may exist should be discussed as a study limitation.

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Inclusive language acknowledges diversity, conveys respect to all people, is sensitive to differences, and promotes equal opportunities. Content should make no assumptions about the beliefs or commitments of any reader; contain nothing which might imply that one individual is superior to another on the grounds of age, gender, race, ethnicity, culture, sexual orientation, disability or health condition; and use inclusive language throughout. Authors should ensure that writing is free from bias, stereotypes, slang, reference to dominant culture and/or cultural assumptions. We advise to seek gender neutrality by using plural nouns ("clinicians, patients/clients") as default/wherever possible to avoid using "he, she," or "he/she." We recommend avoiding the use of descriptors that refer to personal attributes such as age, gender, race, ethnicity, culture, sexual orientation, disability or health condition unless they are relevant and valid. When coding terminology is used, we recommend to avoid offensive or exclusionary terms such as "master", "slave", "blacklist" and "whitelist". We suggest using alternatives that are more appropriate and (self-) explanatory such as "primary", "secondary", "blocklist" and "allowlist". These guidelines are meant as a point of reference to help identify appropriate language but are by no means exhaustive or definitive.

**Reporting sex- and gender-based analyses**

**Reporting guidance**

For research involving or pertaining to humans, animals or eukaryotic cells, investigators should integrate sex and gender-based analyses (SGBA) into their research design according to funder/sponsor requirements and best practices within a field. Authors should address the sex and/or gender dimensions of their research in their article. In cases where they cannot, they should discuss this as a limitation to their research’s generalizability. Importantly, authors should explicitly state what definitions of sex and/or gender they are applying to enhance the precision, rigor and reproducibility of their research and to avoid ambiguity or conflation of terms and the constructs to which they refer (see Definitions section below). Authors can refer to the Sex and Gender Equity in Research
(SAGER) guidelines and the SAGER guidelines checklist. These offer systematic approaches to the use and editorial review of sex and gender information in study design, data analysis, outcome reporting and research interpretation - however, please note there is no single, universally agreed-upon set of guidelines for defining sex and gender.

**Definitions**

Sex generally refers to a set of biological attributes that are associated with physical and physiological features (e.g., chromosomal genotype, hormonal levels, internal and external anatomy). A binary sex categorization (male/female) is usually designated at birth ("sex assigned at birth"), most often based solely on the visible external anatomy of a newborn. Gender generally refers to socially constructed roles, behaviors, and identities of women, men and gender-diverse people that occur in a historical and cultural context and may vary across societies and over time. Gender influences how people view themselves and each other, how they behave and interact and how power is distributed in society. Sex and gender are often incorrectly portrayed as binary (female/male or woman/man) and unchanging whereas these constructs actually exist along a spectrum and include additional sex categorizations and gender identities such as people who are intersex/have differences of sex development (DSD) or identify as non-binary. Moreover, the terms "sex" and "gender" can be ambiguous—thus it is important for authors to define the manner in which they are used. In addition to this definition guidance and the SAGER guidelines, the resources on this page offer further insight around sex and gender in research studies.

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While the journal does not request details of authors contribution, in accordance with the Consensus Statement on Surgery Journals Authorship (2005) we expect that all authors meet all three of the following conditions: 1) Authors make substantial contributions to conception and design, and/or acquisition of data, and/or analysis and interpretation of data; 2) Authors participate in drafting the article or revising it critically for important intellectual content; and 3) Authors give final approval of the version to be submitted and any revised version.

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Randomized controlled trials should be presented according to the CONSORT guidelines. At manuscript submission, authors must provide the CONSORT checklist accompanied by a flow diagram that illustrates the progress of patients through the trial, including recruitment, enrollment, randomization, withdrawal and completion, and a detailed description of the randomization procedure. The CONSORT checklist and template flow diagram are available online.

**Registration of clinical trials**

Registration in a public trials registry is a condition for publication of clinical trials in this journal in accordance with International Committee of Medical Journal Editors recommendations. Trials must register at or before the onset of patient enrolment. The clinical trial registration number should be included at the end of the abstract of the article. A clinical trial is defined as any research study that prospectively assigns human participants or groups of humans to one or more health-related interventions to evaluate the effects of health outcomes. Health-related interventions include any intervention used to modify a biomedical or health-related outcome (for example drugs, surgical procedures, devices, behavioural treatments, dietary interventions, and process-of-care changes). Health outcomes include any biomedical or health-related measures obtained in patients or
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