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## Editorial

This issue of *Neuropharmacology* is devoted to the topic of ionotropic glutamate receptors and is published in conjunction with the 7th Neuropharmacology Conference, held 5–7 November 1998 at the Red Lion Hotel in Glendale, Los Angeles.

Glutamate is the major excitatory transmitter in the CNS, and intensive research over the last 20 years has shown that glutamate receptor activation plays a critical role in synaptic transmission and plasticity, and also in a number of neuropathologies. This conference brings together many of the leading world experts in the glutamate field, and focuses on recent advances in ionotropic glutamate receptor research.

The majority of papers in this issue were submitted by speakers at the symposium, who are leading experts in the field, and all have been subject to the normal peer review process. The issue includes an up to date review of the neuropharmacology of AMPA and kainate receptors, and papers which present original research in the key areas of the development of subtype specific kainate receptor agonists and antagonists, the elucidation of the physiological function of kainate receptors, protein interactions with ionotropic glutamate receptors and the cell biology of NMDA and AMPA receptors. This issue of *Neuropharmacology* therefore covers some of the most exciting advances in highly topical research into the role of and therapeutic implications of glutamate receptor pharmacology.

Graham L. Collingridge  
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