

ABBREVIATIONS USED IN THE TEXT

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| 5-CT | 5-carboxamidotryptamine |
| 5-HIAA | 5-hydroxy indole - 3 acetic acid |
| 5-HT | 5-Hydroxy tryptamine |
| 5-HTP | 5-Hydroxy tryptophan |
| 8-OH DPAT | 8-Hydroxy-2(di-n-propylamino)-tetralin |
| Ach | Acetylcholine |
| ACII | Adenylyl cyclase typeII |
| ADP | Adenosine diphosphate |
| ATP | Adenosine triphosphate |
| BBB | Blood brain barrier |
| BP | Blood pressure |
| B _{max} | Maximal binding |
| BS | Brain stem |
| cAMP | Cyclic adenosine mono phosphate |
| CC | Cerebral cortex |
| CHO | Chinese hamster ovary cells |
| CRH | Corticotropin-releasing hormone |
| CNS | Central nervous system |
| CREB | cAMP regulatory element binding protein |
| DAG | Diacylglycerol |
| dATP | Deoxy adenosine triphosphate |
| DOI | 1-(2,5-dimethoxy-4-iodophenyl)-2-aminopropane |
| dCTP | Deoxy cytosine triphosphate |
| DEPC | Di ethyl pyro carbonate |
| dGTP | Deoxy guanosine triphosphate |
| DNTP | Deoxynucleotide triphosphate |
| DOI | 1-(2,5-di-methoxy-4-iodophenyl)-2-aminopropane |
| dTTP | Deoxynucleotide thymidine triphosphate |

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|-----------------|-----------------------------------------------------|
| ECD | Electrochemical detector |
| EGF | Epidermal growth factor |
| EPI | Epinephrine |
| ERK | Extracellular signal-regulated kinase |
| FCS | Fetal calf serum |
| FGF | Fibroblast growth factor |
| GABA | Gamma aminobutyric acid |
| GAP | GTPase activating protein |
| GFC | Glass microfiber filters : Type C |
| GRP | Gastrin releasing peptide |
| GTP | Guanosine triphosphate |
| HBSS | Hank's balanced salt solution |
| HGF | Hepatocyte growth factor |
| HPA | Hypothalamic-pituitary-adrenal |
| HPLC | High performance liquid chromatography |
| HYP0 | Hypothalamus |
| IAPP | Islet amyloid polypeptide |
| IGF | Insulin like growth factor |
| IL | Interleukin |
| i.p | Intraperitoneally |
| IP ₃ | Inositol triphosphate |
| K _d | Dissociation constant |
| KRB | Krebs Ringer Bicarbonate |
| LN | Lead nitrate |
| mCPP | (3-chlorophenyl) piperazine |
| MAPK | Mitogen-activated protein kinase |
| MIF | Macrophage migration inhibiting factor |
| MuMLV | Murine moloney leukemia virus reverse transcriptase |
| NADH | Nicotinamide adenine dinucleotide, reduced form |

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|------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------|
| NADPH | Nicotinamide adenine dinucleotide phosphate, reduced form |
| NE | Norepinephrine |
| NO | Nitric oxide |
| P | Level of significance |
| PACAP | Pituitary adenylate cyclase activating protein |
| PBS | Phosphate buffered saline |
| PDGF | Platelet Derived Growth Factor |
| PDX-1 | Pancreas duodenum homeobox gene-1 |
| PEG | Polyethylene glycol |
| PH | Partially hepatectomised |
| PIP ₂ | Phosphatidylinositol-4,5-biphosphate |
| PKC | Protein kinase C |
| PLC | Phospholipase C |
| POD | Peroxidase |
| PTX | Pertussis toxin |
| PRL | Prolactin |
| RIA | Radioimmunoassay |
| RT-PCR | Reverse-transcription-polymerase chain reaction |
| S.E.M. | Standard error of mean |
| SMC | Smooth muscle cells |
| SV40 | Simian virus 40 |
| STAT | Signal transducer and activator of transcription |
| T ₃ | Tri-iodo thyronine |
| TGF | Transforming growth factor |
| TNF | Tumour necrosis factor |
| TNFR | Tumour necrosis factor receptor |
| TR | Thyroid hormone receptor |
| VIP | Vasoactive intestinal peptide |