
Preface

Preclinical research related to mood and anxiety disorders relies extensively upon mouse behavioral tests and models. The use of these approaches continues to increase as a greater number of underlying susceptibility genes are discovered, new targets for medications are identified, and clinical studies reveal novel neurobiological risk factors.

The rationale for this second volume is straightforward: to include tests that were not covered in the first volume. This book is meant, therefore, as a complement to Volume I. Together, the two volumes offer a comprehensive resource for the behavioral approaches that are valuable for the characterization of mood and anxiety disorder-related behaviors in mice, and that are utilized in the development of medications that are effective in their treatment. The contributing authors are world-renowned scientists with broad experiences in the development and application of mouse behavioral tasks. Each chapter provides a brief background and review of the test or model as well as a complete and up-to-date protocol narrative.

The chapters are primarily intended as a resource for scientists actively pursuing or interested in establishing behavioral protocols in their laboratories and who have prior experience with studying rodent behavior. However, it will also serve as a reference for those scientists and practitioners who seek to better understand the behavioral methods used in preclinical mood and anxiety research. Though the chapters provide an important resource for reference material and detailed methods, there are a number of subtleties in mouse husbandry, handling, and testing procedures that cannot be acquired solely from following a book. It is therefore strongly encouraged that those with limited experience with rodent behavior seek collaboration with an experienced behavioral neuroscientist to lend a hand in addressing experimental and analysis issues that will, without a doubt, arise.

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