

Meeting abstract

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GPR55 is a novel cannabinoid receptor

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Cannabinoids exert their effects by binding to G protein-coupled receptors (GPCRs). To date, two cannabinoid receptors have been cloned. The cannabinoid CB₁ receptor is one of the most abundant GPCRs in the central nervous system and plays an important role in pain transmission, feeding and the rewarding effects of cannabis, whereas the CB₂ receptor is predominantly found in immune cells. However, some effects of cannabinoids (especially in the vascular system) could not be attributed to either CB₁ or CB₂ receptor function. Here we present GPR55 as a putative novel cannabinoid receptor, since GPR55 signals, binds to and internalizes in the presence of synthetic cannabinoid ligands.