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**ACCEPTED MANUSCRIPT** 

Optogenetic manipulation of ENS -- the brain in the Gut

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**Abstract:** 

Optogenetics has emerged as an important tool in neuroscience, especially in central nervous

system research. It allows for the study of the brain's highly complex network with high

temporal and spatial resolution. The enteric nervous system (ENS), the brain in the gut, plays

critical roles for life. Although advanced progress has been made, the neural circuits of the ENS

remain only partly understood because the appropriate research tools are lacking. In this review,

I highlight the potential application of optogenetics in ENS research. Firstly, I describe the

development of optogenetics with focusing on its three main components. I discuss the

applications in vitro and in vivo, and summarize current findings in the ENS research field

obtained by optogenetics. Finally, the challenges for the application of optogenetics to the ENS

research will be discussed.

Keywords: Enteric neurons; Gut; Gastrointestinal tract; Optogenetics; ChR2

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