



European Monitoring Centre
for Drugs and Drug Addiction



PROGRAMME

Second international conference on novel psychoactive substances

12–13 September 2013
Swansea, UK

Scientific organisers

Professor Andy Parrott, Swansea University

Dr Ornella Corazza, University of Hertfordshire

Professor Fabrizio Schifano, University of Hertfordshire

Scientific advisers (EMCDDA)

Paul Griffiths, Scientific Director

Dr Roumen Sedefov, Head of unit, Supply reduction and new trends

Dr Ana Gallegos, Head of sector, Action on new drugs

Online streaming

Billy Liu, University of Hertfordshire

Kieran O'Shea, University of Hertfordshire

Conference website

www.novelpsychoactivesubstances.eu

Venue

Taliesin Lecture Theatre, College of Human and Health Sciences,
Swansea University

| Second international conference on novel psychoactive substances

Novel (or new) psychoactive substances (NPS) are an ever-increasing group of synthetic, semi-synthetic or natural compounds, which are often advertised and sold as legal alternatives to illicit drugs. Over the last decade, three European Commission-funded projects ⁽¹⁾ have catalogued some 700 NPS and products allegedly containing them. Furthermore, the EU early-warning system, operated by the EMCDDA, currently monitors over 300 new drugs. These include derivatives of phenethylamines, tryptamines, piperazines and cathinones, as well as synthetic cannabinoids and a small number of herbal substances that can produce psychoactive effects.

One of the defining features of NPS is that they are not controlled under the international drug treaties ⁽²⁾, although a number of countries have introduced measures to control some of these substances. NPS may have similar effects to those caused by chemically-related controlled substances but they may also be associated with significantly different, unexpected effects. Today, members of the public can buy these substances easily online. Furthermore, when control measures are introduced, vendors rapidly react by promoting alternative new compounds and products.

| Objectives

This conference aims to explore various scientific issues related to NPS, a subject about which still relatively little is known. The event will contribute, among others, to:

- providing accurate, evidence-based information on NPS;
- improving understanding of how NPS can be 'designed' by slightly modifying the chemical structure of an illicit drug in order to circumvent drug controls;
- exploring NPS by analogy with better studied substances;
- discussing both the acute and chronic clinical effects of NPS use;
- highlighting some of the issues with toxicological screening for NPS;
- improving knowledge of NPS pharmacodynamics and pharmacokinetics;
- improving understanding of treatment and management approaches for patients with levels of clinical and/or behavioural toxicity associated with NPS use;
- informing future research in e-health, selective prevention and harm reduction, using technological tools.

⁽¹⁾ Psychonaut 2002, the Psychonaut Web Mapping System 2008–09 and ReDNet 2010–12.

⁽²⁾ 1961 UN Single Convention on Narcotic Drugs and the 1971 UN Convention on Psychotropic Substances.

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Thursday 12 September 2013	
Taliesin Lecture Theatre	
08.00	Registration
	Chairs: Andy Parrott, Ornella Corazza, Roumen Sedefov, Ana Gallegos
09.00	Welcome — Andy Parrott, Swansea University
09.10	Opening address — Sarah Watkins, Welsh Government
09.20	Keynote speech The past, present and future of new drugs — Paul Griffiths, EMCDDA
09.50	Keynote speech Cannabis, 'Skunk' and 'Spice': implications for mental health? — Robin Murray, United Kingdom
10.20	Break/networking
11.00	Keynote speech Longitudinal outcomes of infants exposed prenatally to stimulant drugs: cocaine and ecstasy (MDMA) — Lynn Singer, USA
11.30	Keynote speech Old psychopathology and new substances: changes in clinical features of mental disorders — Giuseppe Bersani, Italy
12.00	Keynote speech 'Bubble troubles': clinical and pharmacological issues — Fabrizio Schifano, United Kingdom
12.30	Lunch and poster session

Second international conference on novel psychoactive substances

Thursday 12 September 2013	
Taliesin Lecture Theatre (parallel session)	
14.00	Analysis of pooled urine samples — how can this help us understand the patterns of use of novel psychoactive substances? — David Wood, United Kingdom
14.20	The novel psychoactive substance market in Australia: a passing fad or here to stay? — Raimondo Bruno, Australia
14.40	Pharmacological effects and salivary concentrations of 2C-B in humans — Magí Farré, Spain
15.00	Project NEPTUNE: raising clinical standards and developing clinical networks for club drug misuse — Owen Bowden-Jones, United Kingdom
15.20	Break/networking and poster session
16.00	Early identification and rapid reporting of new drug developments: the 'Føre Var' Bergen early-warning system (BEWS) — Liv Flesland, Norway
16.20	Fast analytical methods to profile three seized ketamine samples — Ian Blagbrough, United Kingdom
16.40	Knowledge exchange and novel psychoactive substances in Canada: a strategy for information sharing — Matthew Young, Canada
Faraday Lecture Theatre (parallel session)	
14.00	Analysis of legal high products: the forensic challenge of structural isomers — Mark Baron, United Kingdom
14.20	Effects of dextromethorphan trips as reported by 'Aco-Flyers' in Poland — Jolanta Zawilska, Poland
14.40	Computer-aided ('in silico') approaches in the mode-of-action analysis and safety assessment of ostarine and 4-methylamphetamine — Fazlin Fauzi, United Kingdom/Malaysia
15.00	The sexualised use of crystal meth and mephedrone in MSM and the GUM/BBV consequences — David Stuart, United Kingdom
15.20	Break/networking and poster session
16.00	'What do we tell the kids?!' — drug education and new psychoactive substances — Renato Masetti, United Kingdom
16.20	Use of synthetic cannabinoids to cheat toxicological screenings — Franco Tagliaro, Italy
Taliesin Lecture Theatre	
17.00	Sponsor presentations
19.00	Conference dinner

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Friday 13 September 2013	
Taliesin Lecture Theatre	
	Chairs: Fabrizio Schifano, Ana Gallegos, Paul Griffiths, Val Curran
09.15	Keynote session
09.20	Keynote speech The accumulation of empirical evidence into MDMA over 25 years: recreational 'Ecstasy' is confirmed as a damaging serotonergic neurotoxin in humans — Andy Parrott, United Kingdom
09.50	Keynote speech Smartphones and other technological solutions to improve information exchange on novel psychoactive substances — Ornella Corazza, United Kingdom
10.20	Break/networking
11.00	Keynote speech Ketamine: a review of the physical, psychological and social effects of acute and chronic ketamine use in humans — Val Curran, United Kingdom
11.30	Keynote speech A tale of two drugs: 4-methylamphetamine and 5-(2-aminopropyl)indole — Roumen Sedefov, EMCDDA
12.00	Keynote speech Gamma-hydroxybutyrate (GHB) use and risky sexual behaviour — Zolt Demetrovics, Hungary
12.30	Lunch and poster session

Second international conference on novel psychoactive substances

Friday 13 September 2013

Taliesin Lecture Theatre (parallel session)

14.00	Pharmacological profile of 5-APB (Benzofury) using radioligand binding, voltammetry in rat brain slices and contractions in rat aorta and fundus — Colin Davidson, United Kingdom
14.20	Tramadol — presence of an analgesic on the Internet from a longitudinal perspective — Holger Siemann, Germany
14.40	'Surfing the silk road': a study of users' experiences — Marie Claire Van Hout, Ireland
15.00	Acute intoxication cases related to methoxetamine consumption in Italy: clinical and toxicological evidences — Catia Seri, Italy
15.20	When are smart drugs 'recreational' or tools to enhance work-related function? — Keith Wesnes, United Kingdom

Faraday Lecture Theatre (parallel session)

14.00	Belgian early-warning system on drugs — Peter Blanckaert, Belgium
14.20	Chemical characterisation of aminoindan products purchased from the Internet — Jacqueline Stair, United Kingdom
14.40	The lysergic psychoma: a psychopathological syndrome — Giovanni Martinotti, Italy
15.00	Novel psychoactive substances epidemic as a 'Glocal' phenomenon — Duccio Papanti, Italy/United Kingdom
15.20	Factors impacting on the evolution and characteristics of UK deaths involving 'traditional' and 'new' stimulants — John Corkery, United Kingdom

Taliesin Lecture Theatre

15.40	Closing
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emcdda

The EMCDDA and action on new drugs

The European Monitoring Centre for Drugs and Drug Addiction (EMCDDA) is one of the European Union's decentralised agencies. Established in 1993 and based in Lisbon, it is the central source of comprehensive information on drugs and drug addiction in Europe.

Since 1997, the EMCDDA has played a central role in the EU's response to new psychoactive substances ('new drugs'), which may pose health and social risks to our societies. Today, this activity is carried out under the terms of a legal instrument adopted by the Council of the European Union in 2005: the 'Council Decision on the information exchange, risk assessment and control of new psychoactive substances' (2005/387/JHA of 10 May 2005). Within this legal framework, the EMCDDA and Europol operate the EU early-warning system on new psychoactive substances in conjunction with partners in the 28 EU Member States, Turkey and Norway, the European Medicines Agency and the European Commission. This system ensures that partners have access to the most up-to-date information on new psychoactive substances, both from across Europe and beyond.

www.emcdda.europa.eu/activities/action-on-new-drugs

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This conference is hosted by the College of Human and Health Sciences at Swansea University and is organised in collaboration with the University of Hertfordshire and the EMCDDA. A panel of international experts will examine the latest scientific research in this rapidly-changing field.

www.novelpsychoactivesubstances.eu