



European Monitoring Centre  
for Drugs and Drug Addiction



**SAPIENZA**  
UNIVERSITÀ DI ROMA



Canadian Centre  
on **Substance Abuse**  
Centre canadien de lutte  
contre les toxicomanies

Partnership. Knowledge. Change.  
Collaboration. Connaissance. Changement.

PROGRAMME

# Third international conference on novel psychoactive substances

15–16 May 2014  
**Rome, Italy**

### **Scientific committee**

Dr Dario Carrus, Sapienza University of Rome  
Dr Ornella Corazza, University of Hertfordshire  
Professor Fabrizio Schifano, University of Hertfordshire  
Paul Griffiths, EMCDDA  
Dr Roumen Sedefov, EMCDDA  
Dr Ana Gallegos, EMCDDA  
Dr Giovanni Martinotti, University of Chieti-Pescara  
Dr Alessandro Vento, Guglielmo Marconi University  
Professor Paolo Girardi, Sapienza University of Rome  
Professor Giuseppe Bersani, Sapienza University of Rome  
Professor Massimo di Giannantonio, University of Chieti-Pescara  
Professor Luigi Janiri, Catholic University of Rome  
Dr Giuseppe Ducci, San Filippo Neri Hospital, Rome

### **Abstract and registration administrators**

Dr Rita Santacroce, University of Hertfordshire and University of Chieti-Pescara  
Dr Eduardo Cinosi, University of Hertfordshire and University of Chieti-Pescara  
Naomi Austin, University of Hertfordshire

### **Online streaming**

Billy Liu, University of Hertfordshire  
Kieran O'Shea, University of Hertfordshire  
Cheri Hunter, University of Hertfordshire

### **Conference website**

[www.novelpsychoactivesubstances.eu](http://www.novelpsychoactivesubstances.eu)

### **Venue**

Domus Pacis Torre Rossa  
Via di Torre Rossa 94  
00165 Rome, Italy  
[www.domuspacistorrerossapark.it/en/home.html](http://www.domuspacistorrerossapark.it/en/home.html)

## | Third international conference on novel psychoactive substances

The recent emergence of novel (or new) psychoactive substances (NPS), combined with the ability of the Internet to disseminate information quickly, present a number of challenges in the fields of drug policy, substance use research and public health, both across the EU and internationally.

Despite increasing attention being paid to this issue, these emerging products — often unregulated and sold online as ‘legal’ and ‘safer’ alternatives to traditional illicit drugs — are rarely mentioned in the scientific literature. Furthermore, there is limited information available on their nature and potential risks.

The EU Early Warning System, operated by the EMCDDA and partners, currently monitors over 350 new psychoactive substances. 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. Such a phenomenon highlights the importance of multinational and multidisciplinary collaboration in order to enhance knowledge and improve the quality of information sharing and best practice at a global level.

This conference, which follows on from the first two conferences held in Budapest (2012) and Swansea (2013), is organised by: the University of Hertfordshire; the EMCDDA; the University of Chieti-Pescara; Sapienza University of Rome; the Società italiana di psichiatria and the Canadian Centre on Substance Abuse. A panel of international experts will examine the latest scientific research in this rapidly changing field.

## | Objectives

The main objectives of the conference are:

- sharing accurate, evidence-based information on NPS and on latest trends in NPS misuse;
- contributing to the development of an international platform and other technological solutions for rapid information sharing;
- improving understanding of treatment and management approaches for patients with levels of clinical and/or behavioural toxicity associated with NPS use;
- assessing psychiatric consequences of NPS use and related behavioural addictions;
- developing innovative prevention measures especially for vulnerable individuals;
- raising awareness and contributing to the development of effective prevention messages;
- exploring socio-cultural factors underlying risky behaviours;
- networking and providing the opportunity to meet renowned experts in the field.

## Third international conference on novel psychoactive substances

Thursday 15 May 2014	
Venue: Domus Pacis Torre Rossa	
13.00	Registration
	Chairs: Paolo Girardi, Dario Carrus, Roumen Sedefov, Ana Gallegos, Ornella Corazza, Fabrizio Schifano
14.00	<b>Welcome and opening</b>
14.10	Have NPS become an integral part of the EU drug market? — Paul Griffiths and Roumen Sedefov, EMCDDA
14.30	The UNODC Early Warning Advisory on novel psychoactive substances: new trends — Sabrina Levissianos, UNODC
14.50	Use of novel psychoactive substances and the risk of psychopathological disturbances — Fabrizio Schifano, United Kingdom
15.10	Drugs on the Internet: a phenomenon out of control? — Ornella Corazza, United Kingdom
15.30	Using the media to monitor the global spread of novel psychoactive substances — Matthew Young, Canada
15.50	Educating young people: encouraging appropriate TV programmes on drugs — Massimo di Giannantonio, Italy
16.10	New drugs, old stories: NPS, the media and responsible communications — Harry Shapiro, United Kingdom
16.30	<i>Break, networking and poster session</i>

## Parallel sessions

Thursday 15 May 2014

### Parallel session I: Promoting effective media and knowledge exchange

	Chairs: Karine Diedrich, Massimo di Giannantonio, Harry Shapiro, Matthew Young, Sabrina Levissianos
16.45	Working with the media: challenges and solutions — Stefano Marroni, Italy
17.00	A national agency response to new psychoactive substances — Vicki Craik, United Kingdom
17.15	Highs and lows: exploratory study of 'legal high' use, experiences and expectancies — Ursula Blaszkó, United Kingdom
17.30	Dazed and confused: a brief overview of novel psychoactive substances as a new challenge for healthcare professionals — Pierluigi Simonato, United Kingdom
17.45	Novel psychoactive substances and harm reduction: the peer-to-peer strategies — Vincent Benso and Leo Meignen, France
18.00	Novel psychoactive substances: new measures for harm reduction — Levente Mòrò, Finland
18.15	An epidemiological study on novel psychoactive substances and their impact on mental health — Antonio Metastasio, United Kingdom

### Parallel session II: Clinics and therapeutics

	Chairs: Paolo Girardi, Giuseppe Valeriani, Oscar D'Agnone, Giuseppe Ducci, Luigi Janiri, Kostas Agath
16.45	The online availability of prescription drugs: the interesting case of codeine — Paolo Deluca, United Kingdom
17.00	How Sinsemilla ('Skunk') use has reshaped the association between cannabis and psychosis — Marta Di Forti, United Kingdom
17.15	The Body Brown: a single case study on Melanotan — Rebekah Brennan, Ireland
17.30	The emergence of illicit methadone injection among people who inject drugs in St. Petersburg, Russia — Robert Heimer, USA
17.45	Neurocognitive impairment, structural brain alterations and psychopathology in chronic cannabis users — Giuseppe Bersani, Italy
18.00	Drugs and alcohol: spotlight on substance misuse training — Daniela Collins, United Kingdom
18.15	Social learning theory and initiation into Salvia divinorum use — Brian Kelly, USA
18.30	<i>End of Day 1</i>
20.00	<i>Conference dinner (optional)</i>

## Third international conference on novel psychoactive substances

Friday 16 May 2014	
	Chairs: Sabrina Levissianos, Roumen Sedefov, Paul Griffiths, Paolo Girardi, Massimo Biondi, Alberto Siracusanò
9.45	<b>Plenary session</b>
10.00	New psychoactive substances and the EU Early Warning System: chemistry matters — Ana Gallegos, EMCDDA
10.20	Prohibited substances in sports: emphasis on counterfeit and illegal drugs of abuse — Irene Mazzoni, World Anti-Doping Agency
10.40	Establishing the pattern of acute toxicity associated with novel psychoactive substances — Paul Dargan, United Kingdom
11.00	Cannabis, 'Skunk' and 'Spice': implications for mental health? — Robin Murray, United Kingdom
11.30	Novel psychoactive substances: a comparison among psychoses — Giovanni Martinotti, Italy
11.50	<i>Break, networking and poster session</i>
12.10	From club to clinic. What every clinician needs to know about novel psychoactive substance harms and treatment — Owen Bowden-Jones, United Kingdom
12.30	Central nervous system stimulant drugs: why are they damaging to recreational users? — Andy Parrott, United Kingdom
12.50	Designer drugs, synthetic cannabinoids and the US Federal Analog Act — David M. Benjamin, USA
13.10	<i>Lunch and poster session</i>

## Parallel sessions

Parallel session III: Pharmacology and toxicology	
	Chairs: Andy Parrott, Jane Maxwell, Giuseppe Bersani, Gordon R. Morse, Pierluigi Simonato, Ruri Kikura-Hanajiri
13.45	Update on novel psychoactive substances in the US — Jane Maxwell, USA
14.00	Studies on the binding affinities of newly emerging synthetic cannabinoids at the cannabinoid CB <sub>1</sub> and CB <sub>2</sub> receptors — Ruri Kikura-Hanajiri, Japan
14.15	WEDINOS: initial findings on the who, where and what of new psychoactive substance use — Dean Acreman, United Kingdom
14.30	Changes in electroencephalogram power spectra and locomotor behaviour in rats exposed to synthetic cannabinoids — Nahoko Uchiyama, Japan
14.45	Is it putty or is it MSG? — Ian Blagbrough, United Kingdom

Parallel session III: Pharmacology and toxicology (continued)	
15.00	Behavioural pharmacology of newer synthetic drugs: The United States — Thomas Penders and Jonathan Lee, USA
15.15	Pharmacokinetics and pharmacodynamics of mephedrone in humans — Magi Farré, Spain
15.30	The analysis of new psychoactive substances: five years of experiences — Bogumiła Byrska, Poland
15.45	Using biomarkers in wastewater to monitor community drug use — José António Baz Lomba, Norway
16.00	Novel psychoactive substances as adulterants of controlled drugs — Mireia Ventura, Spain
16.15	Patterns of toxicity and potential for dependence associated with Camfetamine misuse — Eduardo Cinosi, Italy
Parallel session IV: New substances, new trends, new solutions	
	Chairs: Ana Gallegos, Francesco Saverio Bersani, Karine Diedrich, Matthew Young, Rita Santacroce
13.45	Preventing novel psychoactive substances from reaching consumer markets — Matthew Nice, International Narcotics Control Board
14.00	Alcohol and risky behaviours: binge drinking and polyabuse — Luigi Janiri, Italy
14.15	Preliminary results on recreational NPS misuse in a young general population sample — Alessandro Vento, Italy
14.30	The importance of NPS in online drug markets: data from Silk Road 2.0 — Fernando Caudevilla, Spain
14.45	(New) glocal syndemics: the 'M-cat' tale — Duccio Papanti, Italy
15.00	Psychone or Psy-clones? Caught in the middle of the drug 'Clone Wars' — Rita Santacroce, Italy
15.15	Changing patterns of drug use in Georgia: a case of Krokodil — David Otiashvili, Georgia
15.30	Breaking worse: The emergence of Krokodil (desomorphine) and excessive injuries among people who inject drugs in Eurasia — Jean-Paul Grund, The Netherlands
15.45	The evolution and characteristics of UK deaths involving GHB and its analogues — John Corkery, United Kingdom
16.00	Legal highs — do you want to be my guinea pig? — Luc Both, Luxembourg
16.15	The 'drug policy ratchet': why do sanctions for NPS typically only go up? — Alex Stevens
16.30	<b>Closure</b>



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## **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](http://www.emcdda.europa.eu/activities/action-on-new-drugs)

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