
NOVEL PSYCHOACTIVE SUBSTANCES (NPS): NEW FRONTIERS IN ADDICTION?

International Online Course specifically designed for the health care professional employees of ATS Sardegna.

SCIENTIFIC COMMITTEE

Dott.ssa Graziella Boi | Direttore DSMD - Zona Sud | ATS Sardegna

Prof.ssa Maria Antonietta De Luca | UniCa

Dott. Matteo Papoff | ATS Sardegna

MISSION

Novel Psychoactive Substances (NPS) are a broad variety of drugs not regulated by present legislation. The advent of NPS has contributed to the appearance and growth of a new 'drug scenario' characterized by an increased number of drug users among youth and the consumption of drugs with unknown effects or safety profiles. Preclinical and clinical findings have shown that at lower doses NPS may produce effects comparable to those of illicit psychoactive drugs, such as Cannabis, heroin, cocaine and MDMA, however, with more severe consequences.

The first wave of NPS came to Europe in the early 2000s in the form of synthetic cannabinoids followed by synthetic cathinones and phenethylamines. From 2016, a rise in the availability of novel synthetic opioids (NSO) was registered in Europe. NSO are the most dangerous NPS since they mimic morphine and heroin and are many times more potent than these opioids in producing acute toxicity. Based on their increasing prevalence, it has been estimated that their use is likely to become the primary source of NPS-associated deaths in Europe.

This International Course intends to update relevant health care professionals and promote the professional developments of the employees of the ATS-Sardegna - physicians, nurses, social workers and clinical psychologists - providing a unique opportunity to gain expertise in the field of NPS and NSO by an up-to-date overview of pharmacology, structure-activity relationships, and toxicology of NPS and NSO, and the detrimental effects associated with their intake and to prevent health damage. The course is offered by the

DiSB (UniCa) within the Collaboration Agreement between DiSB UniCa - Dipartimento Dipendenze e Salute Mentale Zona Sud - "Programma Regionale per l'utilizzo dei fondi relativi alla quota del Fondo Sanitario Nazionale per l'esercizio delle funzioni trasferite in materia di prevenzione e assistenza sanitaria ai detenuti e agli internati affetti da Tossicodipendenza presso gli Istituti Penitenziari della Regione Sardegna"

The international course is organized in two different sessions:

1. **Preliminary course** (duration one day) | July, 1st, 2021 | h. 10.00 - 12.00;
2. **Advanced course** (duration two days) | July, 2nd and 5th, 2021 | h. 10.00 - 14.00.

FACULTY

Michael Baumann, PhD | Designer Drug Research Unit (DDRU) NIDA, Baltimore | USA

John Corkery, Senior Lecturer | University of Hertfordshire | UK

Maria Antonietta De Luca, PhD | University of Cagliari | Italy

Magí Farré, MD, PhD | Hospital Universitari Germans Trias i Pujol - Universitat Autònoma de Barcelona, Spain

Antonis Goulas, MD, PhD | Aristotle University of Thessaloniki | Greece

Amira Guirguis, PhD, MPharm | Swansea University | UK

Georgios Papazisis MD, PhD | Aristotle University Thessaloniki | Greece

Fabrizio Schifano, MD, FRCPsych | Drug Misuse and NPS Research Unit | University of Hertfordshire | UK

Nicola Simola, PhD | University of Cagliari | Italy

Marta Torrens, MD | IMIM-Hospital del Mar | Spain

ORGANIZING SECRETARIAT

Dott. Ing. Michela Grimal

Dott.ssa Sara Meli

OFFICIAL LANGUAGE

English

SCIENTIFIC PROGRAMME

PRELIMINARY COURSE | July, 1st, 2021 | h. 10.00 - 12.00;

Nicola Simola, PhD | University of Cagliari
“Experimental Pharmacology”

Maria Antonietta De Luca, PhD | University of Cagliari
“Neurobiology of NPS: preclinical data”

ADVANCED COURSE | July, 2nd and 5th, 2021 | h. 10.00 - 14.00.

DAY 1 | July, 2nd 2021

Fabrizio Schifano, MD, FRCPsych
Drug Misuse and NPS Research Unit | University of Hertfordshire| UK
“NPS; clinical and clinical pharmacological issues”

John Corkery, Senior Lecturer
University of Hertfordshire| UK
“NPS-related fatalities”

Amira Guirguis, PhD, MPharm
Swansea University | UK
“Drug checking and targeted interventions”

Michael Baumann, PhD
Designer Drug Research Unit (DDRU) NIDA, Baltimore, USA
“Evolution of novel synthetic opioids in street drug markets - preclinical evaluation”

DAY 2 | July, 5th 2021

Marta Torrens, MD
IMIM-Hospital del Mar, Spain
“Pharmacological effects of Novel Synthetic Opioids”

Magí Farré, MD, PhD
Hospital Universitari Germans Trias i Pujol - Universitat Autònoma de Barcelona, Spain
“Drug Interactions With Novel Synthetic Opioids”

Georgios Papazisis, MD, PhD
Aristotle University of Thessaloniki, Greece
“Epidemiology of the use, misuse and overdose of opioids”

Antonis Goulas, MD, PhD
Aristotle University of Thessaloniki, Greece
“Pharmacogenetics of opioids”

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AGENDA

PRELIMINARY COURSE July, 1st, 2021 h. 10.00 - 12.00			
10.00	Welcome	Graziella Boi	ATS Sardegna Italy
10.15	Lectures		
		Nicola Simola	UniCa Italy
		Maria Antonietta De Luca	UniCa Italy
	General Discussion		
ADVANCED COURSE July, 2nd and 5th, 2021 h. 10.00 - 14.00			
DAY 1	July, 2nd Friday		
10.00	Welcome	Graziella Boi	ATS Sardegna Italy
10.15	Lectures		
		Fabrizio Schifano	UH UK
		John Corkery	UH UK
		Amira Guirguis	SWAN UK
		Michael Baumann	NIDA USA
	General Discussion		
DAY 2	July, 5th Monday		
10.00	Welcome	Graziella Boi	ATS Sardegna Italy
10.15	Lectures		
		Marta Torrens	IMIM Spain
		Maga Farrè	ICS Spain
		Georgios Papazisis	AUTH Greece
		Antonis Goulas	AUTH Greece
	General Discussion		

The International Course is funded by "Programma Regionale per l'utilizzo dei fondi relativi alla quota del Fondo Sanitario Nazionale per l'esercizio delle funzioni trasferite in materia di prevenzione e assistenza sanitaria ai detenuti e agli internati affetti da Tossicodipendenza presso gli Istituti Penitenziari della Regione Sardegna"