



International
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Università
degli Studi
di Cagliari



Fondazione
di Sardegna



NOVEL PSYCHOACTIVE SUBSTANCES

4th INTERNATIONAL SCIENTIFIC SCHOOL

PROGRAM

Day 1

January, 26th 2026

REGISTRATION AND WELCOME COFFEE 3:30 p.m.

INTRODUCTION 4:00 p.m.

Welcome from Maria Antonietta De Luca | University of Cagliari.

INSTITUTIONAL GREETINGS

Prof. Paola Fadda, Vice Rector in charge of Monserrato University Campus

LECTIO MAGISTRALIS

Gaetano Di Chiara, MD

University of Cagliari | Italy

New vistas on addiction pharmacology:
the peptidergic gut-brain system/shell dopamine connection

OPENING LECTURE

Michael Baumann, PhD

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

New Psychoactive Substances in the United States: recent trends and pharmacological investigations

GENERAL DISCUSSION 5:30 p.m.

Maria Antonietta De Luca, Gaetano Di Chiara, and Fabrizio Schifano

The course is funded by the Department of Biomedical Sciences (University of Cagliari) on PNRR-Next GenerationEU funds. Projects: DECODE-018 and NEUROBRIDGE





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Day 2

January, 27th 2026

THE STUDY OF THE NPS- CLINICAL AND FORENSIC ASPECTS.....10:00 a.m.

CHAIRS:

Maria Antonietta De Luca and Matteo Marti

LECTURES

Fabrizio Schifano, MD, FRCPsych

Drug Misuse and NPS Research Unit | University of Hertfordshire | UK

The ever expanding drug scenario; the role of alternative, web-based, monitoring approaches

Carlo Alessandro Locatelli, MD

Centro Antiveleni Pavia | Italy

NPS intoxications in Italy: clinical data

Sabina Strano Rossi, PhD

Università Cattolica del Sacro Cuore | Italy

NPS analysis: Forensic-Toxicological aspects

Åse Marit Leere Øiestad, PhD

Oslo University Hospital | Norway

Forensic toxicological analysis of New Psychoactive Substances
a never-ending struggle to keep up

Amira Guirguis, PhD, MPharm

Swansea University | UK

Social listening and Benzodiazepines: Use, Abuse and Misuse

GENERAL DISCUSSION

Gaetano Di Chiara, Maria Antonietta De Luca, and Matteo Marti

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Day 2 January, 27th 2026

LUNCH BREAK 12:30 a.m. - 2:00 p. m.

THE STUDY OF THE NPS- PRECLINICAL APPROACH 2:00 p. m.

CHAIRS:

Maria Antonietta De Luca and Matteo Marti

LECTURES

Graziella Tocco, PhD

University of Cagliari | Italy

Inside NPS chemical world

Maria Paola Castelli, MD, PhD

University of Cagliari | Italy

In vitro models for the study of NPS

Emilio Ambrosio, PhD

UNED | Spain

Animal models for pharmacological studies on NPS

Barbara Budzynska, PhD

University of Lublin | Poland

Complementary methodologies for the study on NPS: focus on zebrafish

GENERAL DISCUSSION

Gaetano Di Chiara, Maria Antonietta De Luca, and Matteo Marti

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NOVEL PSYCHOACTIVE SUBSTANCES

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Day 3 January, 28th 2026

THE STUDY OF THE NPS - FUTURE PERSPECTIVES 10:00 a. m.

CHAIRS:

Maria Antonietta De Luca and Ase Marit Leere Oistadt

LECTURES

Liana Fattore, PhD

CNR Cagliari | Italy

Gender differences in drug addiction: what about NPS?

Nicholas Pintori, PhD

University of Cagliari | Italy

Neurobiological Consequences of Adolescent Inhalation
of the "Spice" Cannabinoid JWH-018: focus on sex differences

Matteo Marti, PhD

University of Ferrara | Italy

Pharmac-toxicology of NPS: Focus on Synthetic Opioids

CLOSING LECTURE

Michael Baumann, PhD

Designer Drug Research Unit (DDRU), NIDA, NIH | USA

Exploiting NPS to Discover Novel MDMA-Like Monoamine Releasers

GENERAL DISCUSSION AND CONCLUSION

12:00 a.m.

Gaetano Di Chiara and Maria Antonietta De Luca

TRAVEL AWARD CEREMONY

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