



TWIST Session 15: Novel Psychoactive Substances & New Drug-taking Trends

(This session will be repeated to allow more participation)

Wednesday 25th October, 11:00h – 12:30h (Room 1.07) & 14:30h – 16:00h (Room 1.07)



Paolo Deluca is Reader in Addiction Research at the Institute of Psychiatry, Psychology & Neuroscience, King's College London, UK. Paolo has a background in cognitive and developmental psychology, and more than fifteen-year experience in the addiction field. He was lead researcher and co-principal investigator on the EU funded Psychonaut 2002 and Psychonaut EWS projects on illicit drug information and availability of “legal highs” on the Internet which have developed a web monitoring system for novel psychoactive substances (NPS). He has also been awarded grants from the European Commission which looked at the Internet and other ICTs to deliver prevention services addressing the use of novel compounds in vulnerable individuals (ReDNet), the marketing strategies of legal highs (ALICE RAP), codeine misuse (CODEMISUSED) and the real-time monitoring of the availability and distribution of NPS over the Internet (CASSANDRA). He also has a specific interest in Information Technologies and their roles in substance misuse prevention and treatment (eHealth).

Andreas Kimergård is a postdoctoral research associate at the National Addiction Centre, Institute of Psychiatry, Psychology & Neuroscience, King's College London, UK.

Dr Andreas Kimergård is a postdoctoral research associate with a research focus on addiction and public health. Andreas has expertise in drug-related health problems, drug and health policy research and the illicit drug market, covering substances such as alcohol, misused medicines, illicit drugs and new psychoactive substances. Previously he worked on the EU funded CASSANDRA study (2015-2017) to investigate the supply of new psychoactive substances and identify new drugs on the illicit market. As part of the EU funded CODEMISUSED study (2014-2017), he investigated poly substance use involving misused medicines and new psychoactive substances to understand recent trends in experimental drug use across the EU.



Andreas is a Visiting Lecturer at the Public Health Institute, Liverpool John Moores University.

Session Description:

Learning objective(s):

- To provide an overview on the latest NPS market developments in Europe and internationally.
- To explore the implications of NPS use for policy makers, enforcement agencies, and treatment providers.
- To share knowledge between participants from different countries and professional backgrounds.

Scope/main topics covered:

- The trainers will provide a brief overview on background and definition, recent trends in NPS use in EU and across the world, evolution of drug markets (e.g. online, darknet), policy responses (e.g. blanket ban vs. legalization), enforcement (e.g. supply and demand reduction, identification, lack of resources), and treatment and prevention. These topics will be further discussed in smaller groups giving the opportunity to participants from different countries and professional backgrounds to share their knowledge and experiences.

Training/Learning formats:

- The session will be divided in three parts (of approximately 30 min each): An introductory overview, followed by group discussion on four main topics (as described above), and a final general session with each group reporting back on their discussion.



TWIST Session 15: Novel Psychoactive Substances & New Drug-taking Trends

Session Description (cont.):

Learning outcome(s) (what should the trainee be able to do following the session?):

- Understand and describe the diffusion, prevalence of use, and latest national and international trends in NPS use.
- Understand and describe the main legislative implications and policy responses to tackle NPS use in Europe and internationally.
- Understand and describe the main implications for enforcement agencies, including detection, and tackling production and distribution of NPS.
- Understand and describe the latest guidelines on NPS treatment, and examples of harm-reduction, prevention and brief interventions initiatives.

Related LxAddictions 2017 sessions:

SS2 (trends), PS7 (responses), PS18 (developments), PS43 (darknet), SS42 (Early Warning System - EWS) & PS54 (detection)