



International  
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Università  
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di Cagliari



Fondazione  
di Sardegna



# NOVEL PSYCHOACTIVE SUBSTANCES

## 4<sup>th</sup> INTERNATIONAL SCIENTIFIC SCHOOL

# PROGRAM

### Day 1 January, 26<sup>th</sup> 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, 27<sup>th</sup> 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, 27<sup>th</sup> 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

## 4<sup>th</sup> INTERNATIONAL SCIENTIFIC SCHOOL

# PROGRAM

**Day 3** January, 28<sup>th</sup> 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

**Pharmaco-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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