INVITED SPEAKERS

Dr. David Wood is a Consultant Physician and Clinical Toxicologist at Guy's and St Thomas' NHS Foundation Trust and King's Health Partners and Honorary Reader in Clinical Toxicology at King's College London. He has a clinical, research and academic interest in the epidemiology and patterns of use of and acute/ chronic harms related to established recreational (illicit) drugs, new psychoactive substances (NPS) and misused prescription medicines.. He established and co-leads a network of sentinel emergency departments across Europe, known as the European Drug Emergencies Network Plus (Euro-DEN Plus) project to gather information on the acute toxicity and utilization of health facilities following the use of recreational drugs and NPS. He is a member of the UK Advisory Council on the Misuse of Drugs (ACMD) and expert advisor to the European Union Drugs Agency (previously known as the European Monitoring Centre for Drugs and Drug Addiction), the World Health Organisation and the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC) in the area of toxicity related to the use of recreational drugs and NPS.

Beyond Ketamine: The Novel Arylcyclohexamines

Ketamine, an arylcyclohexamines, is widely used recreationally in the Asia Pacific region, as well as elsewhere in the world. In the World Drug Report published by the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime in 2024, 4.7% of individuals aged 15 to 64 years old in China had used ketamine, compared to 0.3% of similar aged individuals in the United Kingdom or the United States of America. In addition to the acute harms related to ketamine use, there has been increasing concern about the potential of significant bladder and urinary tract harm with long-term ketamine use. As a result of this long-term harm seen with ketamine use, and to also circumvent legal control of ketamine, there has been an increased in the availability and use of other arylcyclohexamines. There have been reports to the European Union Drugs Agency (previously known as the European Monitoring Centre for Drugs and Drug Addiction) of detection of 27 new arylcyclohexamines between 2010 and 2022. This presentation will give an overview of a range of new arylcyclohexamines in terms of their detection, use and associated harms.