

2024 Substance Use Disorder Symposium

Workshop Title: Psychedelics & Psychedelic-Assisted Therapy

Presented by: MAJ Aaron Wolfgang
Offered: 11 SEPTEMBER 2024 1300-1630 EDT
Location: Virtual ZoomGov Link

Workshop Description

This workshop will delve into the latest research and clinical applications of psychedelics such as MDMA and psilocybin in treating substance use disorders and other conditions, exploring their potential to usher in a new paradigm of care. Participants will gain insights into the mechanisms, potential benefits, safety concerns, and other ethical, legal, and military-specific considerations of these emerging therapies.

Learning Objectives:

By the end of the training, attendees will be able to:

1. ****Understand the Scientific Basis:**** Attendees will comprehensively understand the neurobiological mechanisms by which psychedelics such as MDMA, psilocybin, LSD, DMT, 5-MeO-DMT, and ibogaine exert their effects across the brain, mind, body, and behavior.
2. ****Evaluate Clinical Applications:**** Attendees will evaluate the latest research findings related to psychedelics and psychedelic-assisted therapy to navigate discussions with patients who inquire about these topics, advise colleagues and decisionmakers, and integrate these understandings into substance use disorder treatment protocols.
3. ****Explore Ethical and Safety Considerations:**** Participants will be able to identify and discuss the ethical, legal, and safety considerations associated with the use of psychedelics across the spectrum of prescribed and non-prescribed contexts, ensuring responsible and informed application in clinical settings.

Agenda:

1300–1305: Welcome, Introduction, & Learning Objectives

1305–1330: Topic Overview

- Historical context, and overview of current political, regulatory, and clinical landscape
- 4 Core principles

1330–1355: Scientific Basis of Psychedelics

- Mechanisms for how psychedelics affect the brain, mind, body, and behavior

1355–1400: Break (5 Minutes)

1400–1455: Safety & Efficacy of Psychedelic-Assisted Therapies for Substance Use Disorders & Other Psychiatric Conditions

1455–1500: Break (5 Minutes)

1500–1530: Ethical, Legal, Safety, & Military Considerations

- Ethical, legal, safety, clinical, and operational implications of psychedelic-assisted therapies in military and general populations

1530–1545: How to Counsel Your Patients

- Counseling your patients about making decisions that are safe, legal, and medical

1545–1600: Practical Implications & Future Directions

- Incorporating psychedelic-assisted therapy into the MHS system of care
- Training and certification for therapists
- Future directions in research and clinical implementation

1600–1630: Q&A and Closing Remarks

- Open floor for questions and discussion