

WORKSHOPS

Pre-Registration Required by Jan. 30

W10 Reefer Madness: The History of THC Psychosis and Modern Adverse Events

Monday, February 13, 2023

1:00 PM – 4:00 PM

CE Hours: 3.25

Learning Overview: After attending this workshop, attendees will have a better understanding of the state of cannabis legalization and regulations, the history of cannabis psychosis and adverse events, gaps in the scientific knowledge and promulgated mythology, modern incidents of adverse effects and potential mechanisms, and cases in which evidence and circumstances indicate THC-related psychosis. Content will enable attendees to influence, educate, and collaborate with stakeholders in their communities regarding threats to public health and public safety.

Impact Statement: This workshop will impact the forensic science community by increasing attendees' understanding of the complexities of the impacts of cannabis and THC analogs in our communities and the need for a multidisciplinary collaboration to know the incidents of adverse events and importance of appropriately and thoroughly describing the etiology of adverse events.

In many jurisdictions across the United States, alternative cannabimimetic products have erupted and proliferated. Due to knowledge gaps, confusion, and lack of enforcement, new products that are claimed to be legal and safe derivatives of hemp have been propagated. The pervasiveness of products containing synthetic (i.e., unnatural) THC isomers is well known in communities, as they are commonly sold in vape shops, Cannabidiol (CBD) stores, gas stations, and convenience stores. These synthetic THC isomers and derivatives include, but are not limited to, $\Delta 8$ -THC, $\Delta 10$ -THC, $\Delta 6a$ -10a-THC, THC-acetate (THC-O), CBD-di-acetate (CBD-di-O), Tetrahydrocannabiphorol (THC-P), exo-THC, Hexahydrocannabinol (HHC), Tetrahydrocannabutol (THC-B), and halogenated THC. Unknown internet sources have misinterpreted the scientific literature, perpetuating falsehoods and misinformation, and consumers have a false sense of security in the quality and efficacy of these products. A current and significant challenge facing the United States is that the population of persons taking traditional THC products as well as these THC analogs is exponentially more than those who would consume the "older" synthetic cannabinoids. The incidence of reported adverse effects is on the rise, as demonstrated by the increase in calls to poison control centers. However, attribution of the adverse event to a defined drug rarely happens because the product consumed by the person is not analyzed for chemical content and toxicology testing is often limited. Conversely, symptomology and general health of persons is also rarely recorded in the event that products are tested from the self-reporting individual.

Chair:

Michelle R. Peach, PhD

Virginia Commonwealth University
Richmond, VA

Co-Chair:

Nicholas B. Tiscione, MS

Palm Beach County Sheriff's Office
West Palm Beach, FL

Presenters:

Alaina Holt, BS

Virginia Commonwealth University
Richmond, VA

Justin L. Poklis, BS

Virginia Commonwealth University
Richmond, VA

Adam White, PhD

Adam J. White Clinical & Forensic Psychology
West Palm Beach, FL

Target Audience: Criminalistics, General, Jurisprudence, Pathology/Biology, Psychiatry & Behavioral Science, Toxicology

Knowledge Level Required: Basic