

ADDRESS COLLOQUIA

Venue: Medical University Vienna, Center for Physiology and Pharmacology,
Institute of Pharmacology, Conference room, 3rd floor
Währingerstrasse 13a, 1090 Vienna,
(Harald H. Sitte, Tel.: (01) 40160 31323, harald.sitte@meduniwien.ac.at)

Tuesday 6.6.2017 12.00 s.t. Volker Auwärter (host: H. Sitte)

Institute of Forensic Medicine
Forensic Toxicology
Medical Center - University of Freiburg
Albertstraße 9
79104 Freiburg, Germany

***"New Psychotropic Drugs – Where do they come from,
what are the risks and the challenges?"***

Volker Auwärter (volker.auwaerter@uniklinik-freiburg.de)

Abstract:

The term 'new psychotropic drugs' refers to a variety of different drug classes, among them synthetic cannabinoid receptor agonists, stimulants, hallucinogens, benzodiazepines, and opioids. Each class of substances has its unique history of medical and recreational use with known typical side-effects and risks, but specific toxicity of new substances may additionally threaten public health. With hundreds of these drugs emerging in the last years, it is often challenging to detect drug use by analyzing biological samples and to assess the relative harm of these drugs when comparing them to traditional illegal drugs. A growing body of literature comprising of case reports, toxicological and pharmacological studies as well as socio-scientific research will lead to a better understanding of risks and chances associated with these drugs. Currently, missing knowledge of the users on specific risks and dosing – some drugs showing extremely high potencies, not being declared correctly – are the main problems. It is likely that the phenomenon of new psychotropic drugs will fundamentally change the way of dealing with recreational drugs in prevention work and drug legislation worldwide.

Short CV

Prof. Dr. rer. nat. Volker Auwärter; born May 27, 1970; German;
Diploma and PhD in Chemistry, State doctorate in Forensic Toxicology,
Professor and head of the Forensic Toxicology Department of the Institute of
Forensic Medicine, Medical Center – University Freiburg, Germany

Member of TIAFT (The International Association of Forensic Toxicologists), SoHT (Society of Hair Testing), GTFCh (German society of toxicological and forensic chemistry), DGMS (German society of mass spectrometry), DGRM (German society of forensic medicine), and BADS (German society against alcohol and drugs in road traffic);

Member of the National Committee of Experts on Narcotics at the German Federal Ministry of Health and the Committee on Legal Limits for Drug Concentration (“Grenzwertkommission”) at the German Federal Ministry of Transport, Building and Urban Development.

Besides reading for medical students and being an expert witness Prof. Auwärter has coordinated the EU projects “SPICE” and “Spice II Plus”, and manages several other research projects. His research focuses on cannabinoids, both natural and synthetic, and also covers other new drugs, alcohol consume markers, post mortem toxicology, drug metabolism, pharmacokinetic / pharmacogenetic studies and analytical support of clinical research, and resulted in more than 100 research articles in scientific Journals with peer review. He was awarded with the TIAFT Achievement Award in 2013 and received several national awards for his contributions to forensic toxicology.

Next Address Colloquia:

- 14.6.2017: Paul Cumming (School of Psychology and Counselling and IHBI, QUT, and QIMR-Berghofer Institute; Brisbane, Australia

“Molecular Brain Imaging of Schizophrenia”