

## **ADDRESS COLLOQUIA**

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

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**Thursday 17.05.2018      12:00 s.t.**

**Host: Harald Sitte**

**Simon D. Brandt, Ph.D.**

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### ***Psychedelic substances – yesterday, today and tomorrow***

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The synthesis and discovery of the psychoactive properties of d-lysergic acid diethylamide (LSD) triggered an avalanche of investigations that continue to capture the imagination of researchers across all disciplines until this day. It has been argued that the mysterious and powerful effects on cognition, mood and behavior induced by LSD and other so-called classical (serotonergic) hallucinogens such as N,N-dimethyltryptamine (DMT) and psilocybin (magic mushrooms) played a key role in the rise of modern neuropharmacology.

Although traditionally restricted to scientific research, a number of these substances have always been circulating on the streets. In recent years, however, largely triggered by the emergence of so-called new psychoactive substances (NPS), a more diverse number of psychedelic-like substances began to appear as 'research chemicals' on a larger scale and became available for purchase via online retailers. The purpose of this seminar is to give an introduction to the topic of NPS psychedelics.

## **Biosketch**

Simon D. Brandt is a Reader in Bioactive Drug Chemistry at the School of Pharmacy and Biomolecular Sciences of Liverpool John Moores University. His research activities and interests focus on the chemistry, analytical and pharmacological properties of psychoactive substances, "legal highs", drugs of abuse and so-called designer drugs, within the context of (psycho)pharmacology, medicinal chemistry, psychiatry, forensic science and public health.

He obtained a Diploma in Biochemistry/Molecular Biology (1999) with further specialisation in cell structures and pharmacology/toxicology at the University of Hamburg (Germany). He holds a PhD in Analytical Chemistry (2004) from The University of Manchester (formerly UMIST) (United Kingdom). He serves as an Associate Editor of the Wiley journal "Drug Testing and Analysis". Since 2011, and in collaboration with LJMU's Public Health Institute, Simon functions as a coordinator of the UK Early-Warning System on New Psychoactive Substances run by Public Health England.

Simon serves as a senior scientific expert advisor in questions related to risk assessment and scheduling recommendations associated with new psychoactive substances. He is an extended Member of the Scientific Committee of the European Monitoring Centre for Drugs and Drug Addiction (EMCDDA) and serves as an expert technical advisor to the World Health Organisation's (WHO) Expert Committee on Drug Dependence (ECDD).