The emergence of NPS (novel psychoactive substances) on the global drug scene poses a significant risk to public health and a challenge to drug policy. Often, little is known about the adverse health effects and social harms of NPS. The analysis and identification of many chemically diverse substances present in drug markets is demanding. Monitoring, information sharing, early warning and risk awareness are essential to respond to this situation.

NPS have been known by terms such as “legal highs”, “bath salts” and “research chemicals”. The term “new psychoactive substances (NPS)” which are defined as “substances of abuse, either in a pure form or a preparation, that are not controlled by current drug laws pose a public health threat”. The term “new” does not necessarily refer to new inventions — several NPS were first synthesized decades ago — but to substances that have recently become available on the market.

*This statement is derived from a UNODC posting.*
Dr. Heesun Chung is a distinguished professor at the department of forensic Science of Sungkyunkwan University, Korea. She was the president of the National Forensic Service. She served as the 13th President for the International Association of Forensic Toxicologists (TIAFT) as well as the 22nd president of The International Association of Forensic Sciences (IAFS).

Dr Simon Elliott has over 25 years’ experience in clinical and forensic toxicology and is a Consultant Forensic Toxicologist, independent Business Consultant and Director of Elliott Forensic Consulting Ltd and Toxicology UK Ltd. As well as being a Visiting Professor in Forensic Toxicology at King’s College London, Dr Elliott is an advisor to the WHO and UNODC. He has published many papers, especially in relation to New Psychoactive Substances. He is a president -elect for TIAFT.

### Speakers

#### Title of talk: Legislative responses to new psychoactive substances

Dr Justice Tettey holds the degrees of Doctor of Philosophy in Pharmaceutical Sciences and Doctor of Laws. He is the Chief of the Laboratory and Scientific Service of the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC) and responsible for the implementation of the Office’s scientific and forensic programme, including oversight of the UNODC Early Warning Advisory (EWA) on New Psychoactive Substances (NPS). The UNODC EWA currently monitors over 1000 NPS worldwide and supports international policy decisions on these substances.

#### Title of talk: 25 years of early warning and response to new psychoactive substances in Europe

Michael Evans-Brown is a specialist in early warning, risk assessment, and public health responses to emerging drug threats. Since 2012, he has worked at the European Monitoring Centre for Drugs and Drug Addiction (EMCDDA) where he is programme manager for risk assessment and risk communication of new psychoactive substances. Prior to joining the EMCDDA, Mike worked as a senior researcher in emerging drugs issues with a focus on the use of human enhancement drugs in society. He was also responsible for coordinating the United Kingdom’s early warning system on new psychoactive substances.

#### Title of talk: US perspective of toxicological issues of new psychoactive substances
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<tr>
<th>Dr. Barry K. Logan is Sr. V/P and Chief Scientist of Forensic Sciences at NMS Labs. He is also Executive Director at the non-profit Center for Forensic Science Research and Education (CFSRE) at the Fredric Rieders Family Foundation in Willow Grove, Pennsylvania. Dr. Logan is a Fellow of the American Board of Forensic Toxicologists (ABFT), and Executive Director of the Robert F. Borkenstein course at Indiana University. Dr. Logan has received numerous national and international awards and served as President of the American Academy of Forensic Sciences (AAFS) in 2013-14.</th>
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<td><strong>Title of talk: The increasing prevalence and harms of new psychoactive substances</strong></td>
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<td>Dr Dimitri Gerostamoulos is Head of Forensic Science and Chief Toxicologist at the Victorian Institute of Forensic Medicine, Melbourne, Australia. He has 30-years’ experience in forensic toxicology and has published a number of scientific papers. He is an approved assessor for the National Association of Testing Authorities, Australia (NATA) in Forensic Science. He is the president of The International Association of Forensic Toxicologists (TIAFT).</td>
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