



Psychedelics

Medical miracle or illicit drug?

4th December 2023, 16:00-17:30 Auditorium A1B, Geneva Graduate Institute

BIOGRAPHIES

Speakers

Toni Berthel

President, Swiss Society of Addiction Medicine (SSAM)



Dr. Toni Berthel is a psychiatrist, psychotherapist and addiction doctor. Until his retirement, he was medical co-director in the integrated psychiatry Winterthur Zürcher Unterland. For many years he was President of the Federal Commission on Drugs and Addiction Issues. He is now President of the Swiss Society for Addiction Medicine (SSAM).

Barbara Broers

Consultant, Unit for Dependencies, Primary Care Division, Geneva University Hospital



Graduate from the Medical Faculty of the University of Amsterdam, NL (1987); Master's Degree in Epidemiology and Biostatistics, McGill University, Montreal; Swiss specialisation title in Prevention and Public Health. Over 30 years of clinical, teaching and research experience at the Geneva University Hospitals in the field of substance use, addiction, HIV and harm reduction. Two years' NGO experience in developing countries (women's health and teaching). In charge of the module "gender and health" of the Diploma on Gender, University of Geneva (2002-6).

Vice-president of the Swiss Society of Addiction Medicine (2001-2020) and of the

Education Committee of the International Society for Addiction Medicine (2018 to date). Vice-president of the Swiss Federal Commission on Addiction-related Questions (2008-2020), now called Swiss Federal Commission on Addiction and Non-Communicable Diseases (2020-to date). Member of the Swiss federal expert group on medical cannabinoids and cofounder of the Swiss Society for Cannabinoids in Medicine (co-vice president, 2020 to date). Co-producer of a MOOC “Drugs, drug use, drug policy and health” (2018, >31’000 participants in August 2023) and of the Summer School “Drugs, health, policy and power.”

Academic Advisor for Master’s students (M 1-3) and responsible for Clinical Clerkships (M 3), member of the Board of Teaching Committees, Faculty of Medicine, University of Geneva since 2014.

Maxime Mellina

Board Member at GREA



Maxime Mellina holds a PhD in Political Science from the University of Lausanne and Paris 8. A specialist in participatory democracy, he then moved to the field of addictions at GREA, where he organizes training courses and works on improving user participation in the political process over drug policy choices. He is also actively working on depenalizing and regulating the use of illegal substances such as cannabis and psychedelics.

Dilkushi Poovendran

Technical Officer, WHO Division of Access to Medicines and Health Products and member of the Expert Committee on Drug Dependence



Dr. Dilkushi Poovendran is a technical officer within the WHO Division of Access to Medicines and Health Products. As part of the Secretariat of the WHO Expert Committee on Drug Dependence (ECDD), she plays a pivotal role in strengthening WHO’s evidence-based substance review process within the international drug control system. She has coordinated the ECDD review of numerous novel synthetic opioids and other NPS, plants like cannabis and kratom, and psychoactive medicines to enable WHO to advise the UN on the appropriate level of international control that would

protect against their public health-related harms while ensuring that they are available where needed for medical and scientific use.

Prior to joining WHO, Dr. Poovendran worked as a health services researcher in community drug treatment services in the UK, coordinating the implementation of large clinical trials aimed at improving health-related outcomes of people who inject drugs. Notably, she investigated the use of contingency management or positive

reinforcement to enhance Hepatitis B vaccination delivery and completion; and to improve attendance and adherence to opioid agonist maintenance treatment (OAMT).

Beyond research, Dr. Poovendran has served as a case worker in stimulant use disorder treatment services, acted as an advocate for crime victims in criminal justice settings, and collaborated with incarcerated persons to deliver educational exchanges in prisons.

A neuroscientist by background, Dr. Poovendran completed her PhD in clinical medicine from Imperial College London, with a focus on mental health services research. Her research investigated the feasibility and acceptability of conducting randomized controlled trials in community drug treatment services. Her expertise extends to the evaluation of complex health interventions, harm reduction, and the clinical management of substance use disorders.

Adeeba Kamarulzaman

President & Pro Vice Chancellor Monash University Malaysia; Commissioner, Global Commission on Drug Policy



Professor Adeeba Kamarulzaman is the President & Pro Vice-Chancellor of Monash University Malaysia. Prior to this appointment, she was Dean of the Faculty of Medicine, University Malaya and continues as an Honorary Professor at UM and an Adjunct Associate Professor at Yale University, USA.

An infectious diseases physician by training, Professor Kamarulzaman is a passionate advocate for HIV prevention, treatment and care especially in key populations and drug policy reform and presently serves as the Chairman of the Malaysian AIDS

Foundation and is the immediate Past President of the International AIDS Society. She is also the founding Chair of ROSE Foundation, an organization that is committed to eliminating cervical cancer in Malaysia and regionally.

At the international level, Professor Kamarulzaman has been an advisor to numerous WHO, UNAIDS and UNODC committees on HIV/AIDS and substance use. She is presently Vice Chair of WHO's Science Council and is a member of the Global Commission on Drug Policy and the Global Council on Inequalities, HIV and Pandemics. Her achievements have been recognised through several national and international awards including as two time recipient of the prestigious Merdeka Award and in April 2015 she was honoured with a Doctor of Laws (honoris causa) from her alma mater, Monash University for her role as a health advocate and contributions to medicine.

Antoine Flahault

Director of the Institute of Global Health, Faculty of Medicine, University of Geneva; Deputy Director of the Swiss School of Public Health, Zürich



Antoine Flahault MD, PhD in biomathematics. He was appointed as full professor of public health in 2002. He was the founding director of the French School of Public Health (EHESP, Rennes, 2007-2012). In January 2014, he was appointed as full professor of public health at the Faculty of Medicine, University of Geneva where he is the founding director of the Institute of Global Health. He has been elected as the Dean of the Swiss School of Public Health in Zürich in 2023. He has been president of the Association of Schools of Public Health in the European Region (ASPHER), co-director of the European Academic Global Health Alliance (EAGHA), and president of the Agency for Public Health Education Accreditation (APHEA). He conducted research in mathematical modelling of communicable diseases, chaired the WHO collaborative centre for electronic disease surveillance, and coordinated research on Chikungunya in Indian Ocean (Inserm Prize, 2006; was scientific curator of a large exhibition Epidemik, la Cité des Sciences et de l'Industrie (Paris, Rio and Sao Paulo)). He is a member of the Académie Suisse des Sciences Médicales (Bern) and corresponding member at Académie Nationale de Médecine (Paris). In November 2023, he had more than 400 scientific publication referenced in the Web of Science.

Moderator

Naomi Burke-Shyne

Executive Director, Harm Reduction International; Visiting Fellow Graduate Institute Global Health Centre



Naomi is the Executive Director of Harm Reduction International and has worked at the intersection of global health, drug policy, law and human rights for the past 20 years. Currently based in Geneva, Naomi previously worked in Asia, Eastern Africa, and Eurasia for the Open Society Foundations' Public Health Program and the International Development Law Organization (IDLO); she started her career as a lawyer in Australia. Naomi is deeply concerned with health as a public good and the funding landscape for access to health and justice.