



THE UNIVERSITY OF
MELBOURNE

Medicinal cannabis and psychoactive plants for mental health and addiction

University of Melbourne Research Forum

Friday 28 June 2019

Overview Since the establishment of legal access pathways in November 2016 over 8000 Australian patients have gained access to cannabis-based medicines for the treatment of a wide range of indications, most commonly chronic pain and cancer. However, there is now a growing interest in the use of medicinal cannabis for the treatment of psychiatric and substance use disorders.

At the same time there is a resurgence of interest in a range of other psychoactive plants and related compounds for this same group of indications. New research programs have been established at eminent institutions such as Johns Hopkins, Imperial College London and NYU with researchers involved reporting remarkable early results. Both psilocybin and MDMA, for example, are now entering Phase 3 trials and have recently been granted breakthrough therapy status by the FDA on the basis of initial evidence indicating they may demonstrate a substantial improvement over existing therapies for treatment-resistant depression and PTSD respectively.

To explore the latest research in this field, as well as regulatory frameworks being implemented internationally to enable medicinal access, the School of Social and Political Science and Department of Psychiatry at the University of Melbourne, in partnership with the Penington Institute, are holding a one-day research forum on this topic in June.

The forum is for invited researchers, policy makers and regulators working across mental health, addiction and medicines regulation.

EVENT CONTACTS

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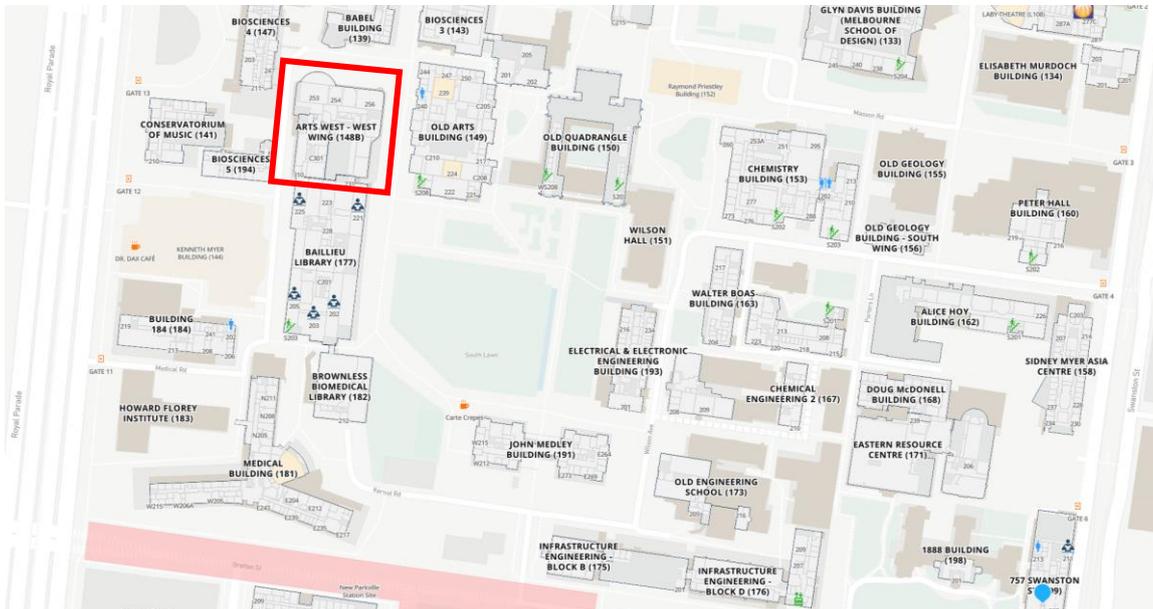
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Program

Date:	28 June 2019	Time:	9:00am – 5:00pm
Venue:	Forum Theatre, Room 153, Arts West - North Wing, University of Melbourne Parkville campus		
8:45 – 9:15	Registration		
9:15 – 9:25	Welcome and open		
9:25 – 9:50	Professor Paul Amminger – Centre for Youth Mental Health, The University of Melbourne. Cannabis for the treatment of anxiety disorders and psychosis in young people?		
9:50 – 10:20	Dr Ingmar Gorman (webcast) – Behavioral Sciences Training in Drug Abuse Research (BST) Program, New York University MDMA assisted psychotherapy for severe PTSD: Therapeutic approach in a phase 3 trial		
10:20 – 10:45	Associate Professor Suzanne Nielsen – Monash Addiction Research Centre, Monash University Opioid-Sparing Effect of Cannabinoids: current evidence from pre-clinical and clinical studies		
10:45 – 11:15	Morning tea		
11:15 – 11:45	Dr Rick Doblin (webcast) – Executive Director and founder MAPS, and Board member MAPS Public Benefit Corporation Making MDMA into medicine: status of phase 2/3 trials, regulatory progress with the FDA and EMA, and a proposed model of treatment and access.		
11:45 – 12:10	Professor Jerome Sarris – NICM, Western Sydney University; and Department of Psychiatry, University of Melbourne Medicinal cannabis and Kava: potential applications in psychiatric disorders		
12:10 – 12:35	Dr Martin Williams – Monash University; and PRISM Psilocybin for the treatment of anxiety among terminally ill patients: the first Australian clinical trial at St Vincent's Hospital, Melbourne		
12:35 – 1:25	Lunch		
1:25 – 1:50	Prof John Skerritt – Deputy Secretary, Health Products Regulation, Department of Health Regulatory requirements: clinical trials, access to un-approved medicines and the TGA registration process		
1:50 – 2:15	Dr Melissa Benson – Lambert Institute of Cannabinoid Therapeutics, University of Sydney Medicinal Cannabis for psychiatric conditions and addictions: The current state of play in Australia		
2:15 – 2:40	Dr Daniel Perkins – School of Social and Political Science, University of Melbourne Ayahuasca as a potential therapeutic agent for the treatment of mental health and substance use disorders?		
2:40 – 3:00	Afternoon tea		
3:00 – 3:45	Associate Professor Matthew Johnson (webcast) – Department of Psychiatry and Behavioral Sciences, Johns Hopkins University Medical School Psilocybin as a new model of treatment for psychiatric and substance use disorders: evidence from a decade of research at Johns Hopkins		
3:45 – 4:15	Dr Milan Scheidigger (webcast) – Department of Psychiatry, University of Zurich Swiss research exploring the therapeutic potential of psilocybin, LSD, MDMA and DMT and the Swiss compassionate use framework		
4:15 – 4:55	Panel discussion Research next steps, gaps and opportunities		
4:55 – 5:00	Close		

Location

The Medicinal Cannabis and Psychoactive Plants Research Forum will be held in the Forum Theatre, Room 153, Arts West - North Wing (building 148A), at the Parkville campus of the University of Melbourne. Please enter via Medical Road or Professor's Walk, and proceed to level one.



Getting to the University of Melbourne

The Parkville Campus of the University is in a city central location and has many public transport hubs within a 5 minute walk from campus. The closest transport point for this venue is stop number 11 of the number 19 tram (North Coburg) on Royal Parade.

Information regarding public transport and parking on campus (including casual, disabled, contractor, bicycle and motorbike parking), bicycle security, car sharing and fleet vehicles can be found on the [Parking and Fleet](#) webpage.

Access to full map of Parkville Campus please click [here](#)