

Molecular Aspects of Psychoactive Drugs – Lecture Series 2016

Dates: Spring Semester, Molecular Aspects of Psychoactive Drugs – Lecture Series

Dates: Spring Semester 2016, 22.02.2016 - 03.06.2016

Time: Monday, 16.15 - 18:00 h

Organizers/Tutors: Prof. Dr. Jürg Gertsch / Dr. Andrea Chicca

Venue: Department of Physiology, University of Bern, Bühlplatz 5, seminar room top level (if not announced differently before lecture)

Topics:

22. February - Molecular targets within the CNS / cultural history of drug ab(use)
- From morphin to endorphins

29. February - The diverse pharmacology of cocaine and amphetamines / Molecular mechanisms of addiction

07. March - Hallucinogens I & II

14. March – Cannabinoids / “Legal” highs

21. March - Natural psychostimulants (caffeine, nicotine, khat, betel)

04. April - Ethanol , benzodiazepins, Kava / Design of sedatives and tranquilizers

11. April - Psychoactive drugs in medicine and drug design - perspectives

Exam (2h written) will be organized upon completion of the lecture within 4 weeks

The lecture series "molecular aspects of psychoactive drugs" introduces the major pharmacological sites in the Central Nervous System (CNS) that control perception/behavior and the drugs that act upon them. It is suitable for both advanced and motivated undergraduate students and graduate and postgraduate students interested in psychoactive drugs, their cultural history, their molecular mechanisms of action, as well as their actual and potential roles in medicine. The lecture notes will contain relevant literature and there will be an exam (2 h) consisting of a multiple choice part and an essay (does not apply for medical students)

Limitation: –

Registration deadline: please register before beginning of 1st lecture

Registration: gertsch@ibmm.unibe.ch / a special website will be online at

www.gertschgroup.com/home/psychoactive_drugs