Weill Cornell Medicine
Psychiatry

# FACULTY COUNCIL EVENING SPEAKER SERIES

## Free to Attend

***for all members of the WCM Community; faculty, staff and trainees welcome!***

# *Past, Present and Future of Psychedelics*


## Richard A. Friedman, MD

**Attending Psychiatrist NewYork-Presbyterian Hospital**
**Professor of Clinical Psychiatry Weill Cornell Medical College, Cornell University**


SPEAKER DISCLOSURE: *Dr. Friedman has no relevant financial relationship(s) with ineligible companies to disclose and DOES NOT INTEND to discuss off-label or investigational use of products or services.*

### DATE

**Tuesday December 10th 2024 | 7pm-8pm**

### Live online Webinar:

https://weillcornell.zoom.us/s/92477153371
Passcode: 728638

### CONTINUING EDUCATION (Optional)

**1 CE is available for a $20 fee**, available to **Psychologists** and **Social Workers** who sign in with their full name, attend the entire lecture and complete a survey which will be emailed following the completion of the workshop. *CME credits are NOT available for this event.*

Click here https://tinyurl.com/2p8n453v or scan QR Code Below to purchase CE credit for this event:

Content is appropriate for beginner, intermediate and advanced level practitioners.

Sponsored by the Weill Cornell Medicine Department of Psychiatry Faculty Council

---

*Weill Cornell Medicine (WCM) Department of Psychiatry, 525 E 68th St. New York, NY 10065, is recognized by the New York State Education Department's State Board for Psychology as an approved provider of continuing education for licensed psychologists #PSY-0192. WCM Department of Psychiatry is recognized by the New York State Education Department's State Board for Mental Health Practitioners as an approved provider of continuing education for licensed mental health counselors. #MHC-0302. WCM is approved by the American Psychological Association to sponsor continuing education for psychologists. WCM maintains responsibility for this program and its content. The New York Presbyterian Hospital Department of Social Work is recognized by New York State Education Department's State Board for Social Work as an approved provider of continuing education for licensed social workers #SW-0155.*

*This event is hosted by the WCM Academy of Behavioral Health and Continuing Education. Information regarding CE program please visit the WCM CE website: https://psychiatry.weill.cornell.edu/education-training/continuing-education. For additional questions contact wcmpsychiatryce@med.cornell.edu.*


## Abstract

Psychedelics have been with us a long time, possibly dating back to ancient Greece. Psychedelics have a unique capacity to evoke transcendent and mystical experiences, in part by deactivating the brain's default mode network, producing an egoless state. But they do something even more remarkable: they induce a state of rapid neuroplasticity, the ability of the brain to reorganize and rewire itself in response to various stimuli. We will discuss current psychedelics, their potential clinical uses and the future of psychdelic medicine, including the possibility of non-hallucinogenic psychdelics that induce neuroplasticity without the "trip."


## Biography

Dr. Friedman is Professor of Clinical Psychiatry at Weill Cornell Medical College and Director of the Psychopharmacology Clinic in the Department of Psychiatry. Dr. Friedman has a particular interest and expertise in the psychopharmacology and neurobiology of mood disorders, treatment-resistant depression, and resilience. He has also done research in depressive disorders, including studies of new medications for depression and a large collaborative study of the genetics and neurobiology of bipolar disorder. He has done research in the military's use of various psychotropic medications in active duty troops during the Iraq and Afghanistan wars and in the veteran population. At Cornell, he is actively involved in teaching and training psychiatric residents and is director of the biological psychiatry curriculum in the department. He was the director of the Cornell Student Mental Health Program from 1999-2020. Dr. Friedman writes for several medical journals, including the New England Journal of Medicine, The American Journal of Psychiatry and the Journal of the American Medical Association, on psychiatric topics. He writes for the New York Times, the Washington Post and The Atlantic on mental health, addiction, human behavior, and neuroscience.

## Learning Objectives

1. Explain the mechanisms of action of psychedelics within the brain and body.
2. Summarize current clinical research findings on the therapeutic use of psychedelics.
3. Discuss the potential therapeutic implications of neuroplasticity compared to transcendental experiences in psychedelic-assisted therapy.

## Suggested Reading


1. De Vos, C. M. H., Mason, N. L., & Kuypers, K. P. C. (2021). Psychedelics and Neuroplasticity: A Systematic review unraveling the biological underpinnings of psychedelics. *Frontiers in Psychiatry, 12*. https://doi.org/10.3389/fpsyt.2021.724606
2. Friedman, R. A. (2023, November 30). What If Psychedelics' Hallucinations Are Just a Side Effect? The Atlantic. https://www.theatlantic.com/health/archive/2023/11/non-hallucinogenic-psychedelic-clinical-therapy/675942/
3. Shao, L., Liao, C., Gregg, I., Davoudian, P. A., Savalia, N. K., Delagarza, K., & Kwan, A. C. (2021). Psilocybin induces rapid and persistent growth of dendritic spines in frontal cortex in vivo. *Neuron, 109*(16), 2535-2544.e4. https://doi.org/10.1016/j.neuron.2021.06.008