

Psychiatry Grand Rounds

WCM Department of Psychiatry
Psychology CE Announcement



**Weill Cornell
Medicine**
Psychiatry

Psychedelics: Brain Mechanisms

Robin Carhart-Harris, PhD

Ralph Metzner Distinguished Professor of Neurology and Psychiatry
University of California, San Francisco

Live Online, Live In-person
Wednesday, October 2nd, 2024
11:00am – 12:00pm

<https://weillcornell.zoom.us/j/92812036154>
Meeting ID: 928 1203 6154
Password: 12345



1 CE credit available to WCM Department of Psychiatry full time and voluntary faculty Psychologists, Social Workers and LMHCs, who sign in with their full name, attend the majority of the lecture and complete a survey which will be emailed following the completion of the lecture. Note the survey must be completed within 30 days of the lecture. Please contact wcmpsychiatry@med.cornell.edu for additional CE information

Speaker

Robin Carhart-Harris, PhD became the Ralph Metzner Distinguished Professorship in Neurology and Psychiatry at University of California, San Francisco in 2021 and founded the Carhart-Harris Lab in 2023/24. He moved to Imperial College London in 2008 after obtaining a PhD in Psychopharmacology from the University of Bristol. Robin and his colleagues have completed multimodal human functional neuroimaging studies with LSD, psilocybin, MDMA and DMT, and clinical trials of psilocybin therapy for various disorders, including three trials in depression, - plus trials in anorexia and fibromyalgia syndrome. Robin is currently (2024) ranked #2 in the world in 'Psychopharmacology' for his publications and citations in the past 5 years and #4 in 'Brain and Cognitive Sciences' (Scholar GPS). He has published in *The New England Journal of Medicine* (x4), *Nature*, *Nature Medicine*, *Nature Neuroscience*, *Cell*, *Lancet Psychiatry*, *Science Advances*, *JAMA Psychiatry*, *American Journal of Psychiatry*, and more. He founded the Centre for Psychedelic Research at Imperial College London in April 2019, the first such 'Centre' in the world. Robin spoke at the World Economic Forum in 2019, was named among the top31 medical scientists by *The Times* newspaper in 2020, was listed in *TIME* magazine's '100 Next' in 2021, was voted psychedelic researcher of the year in 2021, and was listed in *Vox Magazine*'s 'Future 50' in 2023 - a list of positive change makers. Robin signed a book deal with Ebury Publishing and Scribner Books in 2023. His current research at UCSF focuses on the mechanisms of action of psilocybin and psilocybin-therapy.

Financial Disclosure: Dr. Carhart-Harris is an Consultant at TRYP therapeutics, Journey Collab, Osmind, MindState, EntheosLabs, Otsuka group. He will not be discussing the off-label or investigational use of products or services

Abstract

This talk will take a multi-level view of the brain action of classic psychedelic drugs, i.e., drugs that share the property of activating the serotonin 2A receptor. Beginning at the receptor level, it moves through a developmental and evolutionary understanding of serotonergic functioning and brain plasticity, placing emphasis on the context dependency of responses to classic psychedelic compounds. It reviews the dynamic, whole-brain action of psychedelics and how this relates to knowledge of the development and evolution of global brain function and anatomy. It couches our understanding of the therapeutic action of psychedelic therapy within a predictive coding framework and reviews recent trial and imaging results from a double-blind randomized controlled trial of psilocybin therapy vs escitalopram for depression.

Learning Objectives

1. Discuss the role of the serotonin 2A receptor in the action of classic psychedelics.
2. Analyze the context dependency of responses to psychedelics.
3. Compare the action of psilocybin with that of conventional antidepressants.

References

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