Taking Drugs, Doing Drugs, Refusing Drugs: Neuroscience, Psychoactive Compounds, and the Law

Presented by the Glenn M. Weaver Institute of Law and Psychiatry, University of Cincinnati College of Law

Wednesday, March 16, 2011
3:10 pm - 6:30 pm
College of Law - Room 118

Attorney Admission in Ohio and Kentucky

Parking is available at the CCM parking garage. Guests may enter the garage from Corry Street, west of Jefferson. The Deaconess Hospital parking garage on Straight Street, west of Clifton Avenue, may also be available.

CLE Credit
Application for 3 hours of CLE credit has been submitted – 2 hours general and 1 hour substance abuse in Ohio; and 3 hours of general in Kentucky.

Approval is expected. Questions pertaining to CLE credit should be addressed to the CLE administrator in the Dean's Office at 513-556-0063.

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Henry A. Nasrallah, MD, Professor of Psychiatry and Neuroscience, UC College of Medicine. An internationally known psychiatrist, educator, and researcher, Dr. Nasrallah is the director of the UC Schizophrenia Program. His research focuses on the neurobiology and psychopharmacology of psychosis and bipolar disorder. He has published 360 scientific articles and 11 books and has received more than 80 research grants. He has twice received the Exemplary Psychiatrist Award and was recognized as the U.S. “Teacher of the Year” by The Psychiatric Times. He currently serves as the president of the Ohio Psychiatric Physicians Education and Research Foundation.

Shannon C. Miller, MD, Associate Professor of Clinical Psychiatry, UC College of Medicine. An often-consulted expert on addictions, Dr. Miller has been interviewed for Dateline (NBC), Pravda, and U.S. News & World Report. He has authored 30 medical publications and is co-editor of the Journal of Addiction Medicine and the flagship textbook, Principles of Addiction Medicine. Dr. Miller has received numerous awards for his teaching and clinical expertise, including the Humanism in Medicine Award from the American Medical Association and designation as one of “America’s Top Psychiatrists” by the Consumer’s Research Council of America. He currently treats patients at the Cincinnati Department of Veterans Affairs Medical Center, and he provides expert witness testimony in legal proceedings.

Douglas Mossman, MD, Director of the Glenn M. Weaver Institute of Law and Psychiatry and Director of the Forensic Psychiatry Fellowship at UC College of Medicine. Dr. Mossman teaches psychiatry residents and law students, and he speaks to physicians and attorneys about mental disabilities and the law. He devotes his clinical practice to treating patients and evaluating individuals involved in legal proceedings. The author of more than 120 publications, his areas of scholarship include legal and ethical issues, medical decision-making, violence prediction, statistics, and psychiatric treatment. His article “Critique of Pure Risk Assessment or, Kant Meets Tarasoff” received the American Psychiatric Association’s 2008 Manfred S. Guttmacher Award for outstanding contributions to the literature on forensic psychiatry.

About the Speakers

Henry A. Nasrallah, MD, Professor of Psychiatry and Neuroscience, UC College of Medicine.

Shannon C. Miller, MD, Associate Professor of Clinical Psychiatry, UC College of Medicine.

Douglas Mossman, MD, Director of the Glenn M. Weaver Institute of Law and Psychiatry and Director of the Forensic Psychiatry Fellowship at UC College of Medicine.

Schedule of Events

3:10 p.m. Orientation: Psychoactive Compounds and the Law
Douglas Mossman, MD
Director of the Glenn M. Weaver Institute of Law and Psychiatry and Director of the Forensic Psychiatry Fellowship at the UC College of Medicine

3:15 p.m. From Sequestration to Pharmacotherapy: The Evolution of Drug Treatment in Psychiatry — An Overview for Lawyers
Henry A. Nasrallah, MD
Professor of Psychiatry and Neuroscience, UC College of Medicine

4:10 p.m. Break

4:20 p.m. Why Do People Keep Using Drugs—Despite Bad Outcomes?
Shannon C. Miller, MD
Associate Professor of Clinical Psychiatry, UC College of Medicine

5:20 p.m. Break

5:30 p.m. Ordinary Therapy or “Chemical Straitjacket”: When Courts Make Forced Medication a Tough Sell
Douglas Mossman, MD

6:30 p.m. Adjourn

About the Symposium

“Psychopharmacology” sounds like a medical topic. But most attorneys have clients, colleagues, and family members who take prescription medications or who abuse legal or “recreational” drugs. In fact, psychoactive agents figure so prominently in civil and criminal matters that most attorneys can’t avoid dealing with drugs and their impact. The uses and impact of psychoactive compounds affect diverse areas of the law — education litigation, patients’ rights, medical malpractice, involuntary hospitalization, personal injury and other torts, workplace accommodations, Medicaid and Social Security entitlements, criminal prosecution and defense, employment litigation... just to name a few. This symposium offers attorneys up-to-the-minute, ready-for-use, scientific-but-practical information about the virtues and pitfalls of psychoactive agents, taught by three widely recognized psychiatric experts in psychopharmacology, substance use disorders, and the legal significance of drugs.