



12th International Congress on Psychopharmacology

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8th International Symposium on Child and Adolescent Psychopharmacology



November 17th-20th, 2021
Royal Seginus Hotel / Antalya, TURKEY

*Towards Advanced Diagnostics and
Transformative Therapeutics*

Dr Ben Sessa MBBS, BSc, MRCPsych

Dr Ben Sessa is chief medical officer at Awakn Life Sciences, a biotechnology company with clinical operations researching, developing, and delivering psychedelic medicine to treat addiction.

As a consultant child and adolescent psychiatrist, Dr Sessa has worked with young people and adults in the field of addictions and trauma-related psychiatry for over 20 years. He has a particular interest in the developmental trajectory from child maltreatment to adult mental health disorders, including adult addictions. Dr Sessa's joint interests in psychotherapy, pharmacology and trauma have led him towards researching the subject of drug-assisted psychotherapy using psychedelic adjuncts.

Over the last 15 years, Dr Sessa has been part of many ground-breaking scientific and clinical studies administering psychedelic compounds to augment psychotherapy. He has recently completed research with Imperial College London exploring the world's first MDMA-assisted therapy trial for the treatment of Alcohol Use Disorder and continues to carry out research in this area. Dr Sessa is widely published in the academic and popular press in respect of the field of medical psychedelics. He has written several academic books, notably *The Psychedelic Renaissance* (2012/2017).

Dr Sessa is an approved and registered MDMA and psilocybin therapist and has delivered keynote talks at international conferences in the psychedelic community for 15+ years.

Specialist topics for speaking opportunities:

- Why psychiatry needs psychedelics: Developmental psychology, child abuse, trauma and adult mental disorders
- The effectiveness of psychedelic augmented psychotherapy in breaking the cycle of addiction
- Changing the psychotherapy landscape: Integrating psychedelic-based psychiatric treatment into mainstream healthcare
- MDMA psychotherapy as a treatment for trauma-based disorders, particularly Alcohol Use Disorder
- Psychedelic Medicine: How the future of psychiatry is starting in Bristol

Recent publications

- Sessa, B., Higbed, L., O'Brien, S., *et al* (2021) **First Study of Safety and Tolerability of MDMA-Assisted Psychotherapy in Patients with Alcohol Use Disorder.** *Journal of Psychopharmacology*. February 2021.
doi:10.1177/0269881121991792
- Sessa, B., Higbed, L., O'Brien, S., Nutt, DJ *et al* (2020) **How well are Patients doing Post-Alcohol Detox in Bristol? Results from the Outcomes Study.** *J Alcohol Drug Depend Subst Abus* 2020, 6: 021
- Sessa, B. (2019) **Therapeutic Applications for 3,4-methylenedioxymethamphetamine.** Chapter 3 in *Psychedelic Medicine – Volume 3*. Winkelman, M. and Sessa, B. (Editors). ABC / Clio Publishers, New York, USA.
- Sessa, B., Higbed, L., and Nutt, DJ. (2019) **A Review of 3,4-methylenedioxymethamphetamine (MDMA)-Assisted Psychotherapy.** *Frontiers Psychiatry* 10:138. doi: 10.3389/fpsy.2019.00138
- Sessa, B. (2017) **Why MDMA Therapy for Alcohol Use Disorder and Why Now?** *Neuropharmacology* (2017)
<https://doi.org/10.1016/j.neuropharm.2017.11.004/>
- **Sessa, B. (2017) Why Psychiatry Needs MDMA: A Child Psychiatrist's Perspective.** *Neurotherapeutics*. 13(3): 741-749
- **Sessa, B. (2017) History of Psychedelics in Medicine 2016.** Chapter in the *Handbook of Psychoactive Substances*. Edited by Maximilian von Heydon, Henrik Jungaberle and Tomislav Majić. July 2017

Contact for speaker opportunities:

ROAD Communications at awakn@roadcommunications.co.uk or
call: +44 (0)20 8995 5832 or + 44 (0)757 2123239