

C O N F É R E N C E



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Whole plant extracts and single compounds in the search for novel therapeutics in neuropsychiatry and pain

LE JEUDI 27 octobre 2022 À 12 H 30

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Abstract:

Plants have always been an inherent source of novel drugs, yet within each plant there are potentially hundreds of compounds with therapeutic value that have yet to be discovered. The predominant goal of funding agencies and pharmaceutical companies in drug discovery has been to focus on single compounds. However, an abundance of evidence exists demonstrating that there may be interactions between many of these compounds that result in discrete biological effects, a phenomenon known as the “entourage effect”. Given the number of individuals that consume whole plant for therapeutic benefits, more research is needed to understand the therapeutic benefit of utilizing the whole plant. In this seminar, we will use *Mitragyna speciosa*, also known as “kratom”, to demonstrate the differences in biological activity and potential therapeutic value of the single compound mitragynine vs. whole extract using preclinical animal models. Conversely, the impact of the single compounds cannflavin A and cannflavin B on neuron architecture and activity in a rodent model of autism spectrum disorders will be explored.

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