Table of Contents

SMART SEARCH search for pharmacologically active, potentially dangerous compounds in commercially available products by using HRMS ................................................................. 1
SGS_ the way to a safe driving .......................................................................................... 2
Smart Search 2, identification and determination of new psychoactive substances in illicit preparations and biological samples by using novel technologies ................................................................. 3
RIS-NEWS ...................................................................................................................... 4

Total pages: 5
SMART SEARCH search for pharmacologically active, potentially dangerous compounds in commercially available products by using HRMS

Funding country: Italy  
Project starting year: 2010  
Project ending year: 2012  
Area(s) of research: Prevalence, incidence and patterns of drug use, Law enforcement responses, Methodology issues  
Objectives: The project aims at developing a high throughput, high reliability analytical approach based on high resolution mass spectrometry coupled to high performance liquid chromatography to detect and identify NPS in commercially available products (herbal blends, bath salts...) in order to monitor the penetration of these dangerous compounds in Italy. Another final aim is to provide information useful to include the identified compounds in the National Schedules of Illicit Drugs.  
Scientific discipline(s) involved: Other medical sciences, Toxicology  
Initial identified needs: In the recent years new psychoactive substances (NPS) have been released into the market, often added to apparently "innocent" products easily available in the market. However NPS, known also as Smart Drugs because of a high addictive power and high psychoactivity and inherent toxicity represent a new danger particularly for the young generations. Their atypical structure hider their detection by current methods. Only the most recent analytical techniques are suitable for the purpose of identifying NPS in the market.  
Performed by: University of Verona Italy  
Dipartimento Politiche Antidroga, Presidenza del Consiglio dei Ministri  
Polsizia delle Comunicazioni - Polizia di Stato  
Sistema Nazionale di Allerta Precoce  
Direzione Centrale Servizi Antidroga - Ministero dell'Interno  
Funded by: Dipartimento Politiche Antidroga, Rome, University of Verona  
Website: http://www.policieantidroga.it  
Published reference(s):  
Merola G, Gentili S, Tagliaro F, Macchia T. Determination of different recreational drugs in hair by HS-SPME and GC/MS. Anal Bioanal Chem. 2010; 397:2987-95. IF: 2.301
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th><strong>Funding country:</strong></th>
<th>Italy</th>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Project starting year:</strong></td>
<td>2011</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Project ending year:</strong></td>
<td>2013</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Area(s) of research:</strong></td>
<td>Law enforcement responses, Determinants of drug use, Consequences of drug use, Mechanism of drug use and effects</td>
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<td><strong>Objectives:</strong></td>
<td>The objective of the project is to raise awareness among young people about the importance of safe driving and to offer them, through the production of a specific spot-video, a further opportunity for reflection on issues related to road safety and to the measures to be taken to prevent the dangers related to driving under the influence of alcohol and drugs.</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Scientific discipline(s) involved:</strong></td>
<td>Neurosciences, Sociology</td>
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<td><strong>Initial identified needs:</strong></td>
<td>The project responds to the lack of programs and prevention activities on the effects that drugs and alcohol have on driving, to the increase in the number of road accidents and sanctions related to the use of drugs and alcohol, to the misinformation about the consequences on the health and on the driving capacity due to the use of drugs, to the lack of a technical and scientific information of the driving school instructors and to the fragmented nature and limited effectiveness of initiatives already realized.</td>
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<td><strong>Performed by:</strong></td>
<td>CUEIM - University consortium of Industrial and Managerial Economy/ CUEIM-DPA working group</td>
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<td><strong>Funded by:</strong></td>
<td>Department for Anti-drugs Policies (DPA), CUEIM - Consorzio Universitario di Economia Industriale e Manageriale</td>
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<td><strong>Summary references:</strong></td>
<td></td>
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<td><strong>Website:</strong></td>
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| **Published reference(s):** | SGS_ the way to a safe driving  
SGS - La Strada per una Guida Sicura
Smart Search 2, identification and determination of new psychoactive substances in illicit preparations and biological samples by using novel technologies

Funding country: Italy
Project starting year: 2012
Project ending year: 2013
Area(s) of research: Prevalence, incidence and patterns of drug use, Law enforcement responses, Methodology issues

Objectives: the project is focused on the development of new methods of analysis of the new psychoactive substances (NPS) in biological samples. moreover, the project includes the continuation of monitoring the presence of the new psychoactive substances in commercial products available in the market.

Scientific discipline(s) involved: Other medical sciences, Toxicology

Initial identified needs: The project follows the end of the former project named Smart Search. The reason supporting the new project are: i) the need of determining the new psychoactive substances (NPS) in biological samples, and particularly in hair, in which the traditional analytical method are hardly applicable; ii) moreover, there is a continuing need in analyzing NPS in the market.

Performed by: University of Verona Italy
Dipartimento Politiche Antidroga, Rome
Catholic University of the Sacred Heart, Faculty of Medicine, Rome
European Institute for Health Promotion
Dipartimento delle Dipendenze, ULSS 20, Verona, Italy

Funded by: Dipartimento Politiche Antidroga, Rome, University of Verona, Verona, Italy

Summary references:
Website: http://www.politicheantidroga.it/progetti-e-ricerca/progetti-dpa/sezione-8---ricerca/813-smart-search/presentazione-.aspx

Published reference(s):
Funding country: Italy
Project starting year: 2013
Project ending year: 2015
Area(s) of research:
- Prevalence, incidence and patterns of drug use
- Law enforcement responses
- Drug related crime responses
- Determinants of drug use
- Mechanism of drug use and effects
- Supply and markets
- Methodology issues

Objectives:
The overall objective of the project is to support the entry of the laboratories of the Carabinieri (RIS and LASS) in the National Early Warning System of the Dipartimento Politiche Antidroga (DPA), through periodical training of technicians to learn about the latest drugs and procedures for reporting to the National Early Warning System, participation in the National DPA database of new drugs and testing of drug test.

Scientific discipline(s) involved: Legal sciences, Pharmacology, Other discipline

Initial identified needs:
Increase the Carabinieri labs (4 RIS and 29 LASS) site recognition capabilities of new substances through a series of activities that will enable them to increase their analytical sensitivity, to encourage the recognition of new substances psychoactive, also through specific devices, and make timely reports to the National Early Warning System of the Dipartimento Politiche Antidroga.

Performed by:
- Sistema Nazionale di Allerta Precoce, Dipartimento Politiche Antidroga, PCM
- Istituto Superiore di Sanità
- Centro Antiveloni di Pavia, Fondazione “Salvatore Maugeri”
- Dipartimento delle Dipendenze, Azienda ULSS 20 Verona

Funded by:
- Dipartimento Politiche Antidroga - PCM

Summary references:
Website: http://www.ris.allertadroga.it
Published reference(s): http://www.ris.allertadroga.it/materiale.html