

Medical Toxicologist Publishes Reference Book on Drugs of Abuse

Dr. Donald Barceloux, a member of the American College of Medical Toxicology, has published a comprehensive reference book entitled 'Medical Toxicology of Drug Abuse: Synthesized Chemicals and Psychoactive Plants'. This textbook provides detailed information on common and emerging substances of abuse, and is a critical resource to healthcare providers.

Phoenix, AZ ([PRWEB](#)) November 13, 2012 -- 'Medical Toxicology of Drug Abuse: Synthesized Chemicals and Psychoactive Plants' is the second book in a series by a member of the American College of Medical [Toxicology](#) (ACMT), Donald G. Barceloux, M.D. This reference work follows his first textbook, which focused on the use and harm from natural substances such as [poison](#) mushrooms and snakes. Dr. Barceloux's current work is a comprehensive and evidence-based resource that provides the reader with clinical, analytical, and forensic information on current drugs of abuse including cathinones (found in "bath salts") and synthetic cannabinoids (found in incense and "Spice").

The variety of substances to which patients intentionally expose themselves in order to get high continues to increase. Health care providers may find it difficult to keep up with current trends in drug abuse and with the symptoms and complications that may result from using newer agents. 'Medical Toxicology of Drug Abuse' provides detailed information on various natural, synthetic, and semisynthetic abused substances. The text discusses the chemical properties of these substances, how they are used and absorbed into the body, the signs and symptoms that occur following their use, how to test for these substances, and current management recommendations when treating patients who have become ill following use or [overdose](#). The book includes information on various stimulant agents, popular club drugs, and supplements such as anabolic steroids, clenbuterol, erythropoietin and HCG.

One section focuses on psychoactive plants and includes discussion of plants that are used for both recreational and medicinal purposes, such as kratom and marijuana. There is information on drugs of abuse that are derived from plants, such as cocaine. Caffeine and nicotine are also discussed in this section, as are the potentially toxic components of betel quid, areca nut, and khat. Information on the hallucinogenic substance found in mushrooms and in the peyote cactus completes the section.

Overall, the text is an excellent resource for anyone wanting to learn more information about the wide variety of psychoactive substances that may be used and abused.

ACMT is a professional, nonprofit association of physicians with recognized expertise in medical toxicology. The College is dedicated to advancing the science and practice of medical toxicology through a variety of activities.