

Summer Series 2026

Psychopharmacology Speaker Series Webinars

Clinical Psychopharmacology in Action: Science and Practice

Discover cutting-edge insights into mental health treatment as experts in the field of prescriptive authority and psychopharmacology take center stage in our exclusive webinar series.

Three Transformations Psychiatry is Undergoing Right Now

James Phelps, MD

May 11 | 5:00 p.m.

Three of the biggest changes in psychiatric diagnosis and treatment in the last 30 years are underway. The next DSM intends to blend yes/no and spectrum ("categorical" and "dimensional") diagnosis. The mechanisms of bipolar mood shifts are finally emerging, from five separate lines of research. Old compounds find new uses, for example lithium could experience a resurgence if lithium orotate supercedes lithium carbonate, as stunning new mouse data suggest may be warranted (at least for prevention of dementia). Join us for an overview of these exciting developments.

Dr. Phelps focused his psychiatric practice on complex mood disorders for over 20 years. He served on the International Society for Bipolar Disorders' Diagnosis and Chronotherapy Task Forces. He founded the website PsychEducation.org in 2000 and recently a simpler/shorter version, DepressionEducation.org, leading to book invitations: "Why Am I Still Depressed?" for patients and families and "A Spectrum Approach to Mood Disorders" for professionals. Currently Dr. Phelps is completing a series on YouTube/@PsychEducation, presenting the same material in 30 five-minute videos. He is a co-creator of BrainStorm the Film, a documentary on the bipolar spectrum premiered at World Bipolar Day in 2026 and scheduled for national PBS airing in 2027.

1.0 Continuing Education Unit Available*

Register: alliantu.co/cspp0511

The Science vs Pseudoscience of Medical Cannabis: What Clinicians Need to Know

Randall Tackett, PhD

June 17 | 5:00 p.m.

Medical cannabis has become legal in several states, allowing clinicians to prescribe it. However, studies have demonstrated that prescribers may not be equipped with adequate knowledge to prescribe marijuana products. Even clinicians who are not prescribing still encounter patients who are using marijuana in various forms. Patients additionally have their own expectations which may not be based on the science of cannabis. This seminar will overview the pharmacology and therapeutics of cannabis products as well as the impact the use of these products may have on the patient, such as drug testing results, employment and driving. The lecture will also review legal limitations of state cannabis laws.

Dr. Randall Tackett received his Ph.D. in Pharmacology and Toxicology from the University of Georgia. After completion of a postdoctoral fellowship at the Medical University of South Carolina, he returned to the University of Georgia College of Pharmacy as an Assistant Professor. He is currently Professor and Associate Department Head in the Department of Clinical & Administrative Pharmacy, and the Director of the Clinical Trials Certificate Program in Regulatory Affairs. He also holds adjunct faculty appointments at Alliant University and Fairleigh Dickinson University. He has given numerous lectures about dealing with adverse drug interactions, cardiovascular disease, substance abuse psychopharmacology and forensic pharmacy. He is recognized as an expert in pharmacology and toxicology in the area of substance abuse.

1.0 Continuing Education Unit Available*

Register: alliantu.co/cspp0617

Biochemistry of Hallucinogens: Native, Clinical and Recreational Uses

Judi Steinman, PhD

July 21 | 5:00 p.m.

Hallucinogens are a diverse class of psychoactive substances that alter perception, mood, and cognition by interacting with specific neurotransmitter systems in the brain, most notably the serotonin 5-HT_{2A} receptor. Effects arise from disruptions in cortical network connectivity and modulation of thalamic sensory gating, leading to a more fluid and less filtered flow of information between brain regions. While historically associated with recreational use, current research has explored their potential therapeutic applications in treating depression, anxiety, PTSD, and addiction, highlighting both their powerful neurochemical effects and the importance of controlled, supportive settings for safe use. While ceremonial use often involves careful dosing and cultural safeguards, recreational or unsupervised use particularly with poly-drug interactions can significantly increase the risk of toxicity. Interactions between different hallucinogens with serotonin-enhancing medications (SSRIs, MAOIs, SNRIs, lithium) will be discussed in relation to pharmacotherapeutic toxicity from Serotonin Syndrome.

Dr. Judi Steinman is an adjunct professor in Alliant University's Master of Science in Clinical Psychopharmacology (MSCP) program and was Program Director from 2017-2022. She served as the President of APA's Society for Prescribing Psychology (Division 55) in 2019 and as Past President from 2020-2022. She co-chairs the Division 55 Training Program Director Council and is founding chair of the Division 55 Legislative and Social Action Committee (LASAC). She co-authored the Division's Specialty Petition to APA's CRSPPP, allowing Clinical Psychopharmacology to be recognized as a specialty. Dr. Steinman serves as chair of the Hawai'i and Florida Psychological Associations' RxP Committees. She is actively engaged in efforts to bring prescriptive authority for qualified psychologists to Hawai'i, Florida and across the globe. She trains graduates from all of the MSCP programs for the national PEP exam.

1.0 Continuing Education Unit Available*

Register: alliantu.co/cspp0721

Drug-Drug Interactions with Psychotropic Medications in the Treatment of Substance Use Disorders and Medical Illness

Merrill Norton Pharm.D., D.Ph., CMAC, CCS

August 13 | 5:00 p.m.

Drug-drug interactions (DDIs) involving psychotropic medications are among the most common causes of adverse drug reactions, treatment failure, and medication-related hospitalizations in psychiatric and addiction medicine practice. This seminar provides an advanced clinical understanding of pharmacokinetic and pharmacodynamic interactions among antidepressants, antipsychotics, mood stabilizers, sedative-hypnotics, stimulants, and medications used in substance use disorder treatment. Emphasis is placed on cytochrome P450 metabolism, transporter systems, pharmacogenomics, and interaction management in medically complex patients. Practitioners will learn to identify, predict, and manage clinically significant interactions using evidence-based prescribing strategies.

Dr. Merrill Norton is an EMMY winning Clinical Associate Professor Emeritus of the University of Georgia College of Pharmacy. He was most recently honored by receiving the first Certified Master Addiction Counselor (CMAC) credential in Georgia. His recently updated book, "Understanding Substance Use Disorders Pharmacology," has been used to train thousands of mental health professionals nationally. His latest book, "The Pharmacist's Guide to Opioid Use Disorders" was released in December 2018. Dr. Norton has state, national, and international credentials in the treatment of mentally ill/addicted/chronic pain individuals. His areas of specialty in addiction pharmacy are the management of chronic pain in the substance use disordered patient and the neuroscience of substance use disorders. Dr. Norton provides workshops to communities, educators, healthcare professionals, prevention specialists, treatment providers, and especially families, about the diseases of substance use disorders.

1.0 Continuing Education Unit Available*

Register: alliantu.co/cspp0813

Psychopharmacology Information Sessions

Admissions counselors will lead a presentation about the MS in Clinical Psychopharmacology program at Alliant covering the admissions process, program structure, cost, and more. Q&A session included.

All Information Sessions start at 5:00 p.m. PT

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About CSPP

Founded in 1969 as one of the nation's first free-standing schools of professional psychology, CSPP has educated thousands of students who are now working professionals in clinical psychology, couples and family therapy, and organizational psychology. Our degree programs prepare the next generation of mental health professionals and advocates to help improve access to quality mental health care in every community.

Why CSPP?

At CSPP, we offer you an education that is:

APA-Accredited

Focused on practical, real-world experience

Connected with diverse faculty and alumni

Aimed at the student experience

Learn more at

alliantu.co/psychopharm



*Alliant University is approved by the American Psychological Association (APA) to sponsor continuing education credits for psychologists. Provider approved by the California Board of Registered Nursing (BRN), provider #CEP17538, for 1.0 and 2.0 contact hours. Those seeking CE credits under the BRN must retain the certificate for a minimum of four years. Alliant maintains responsibility for the program and its content.