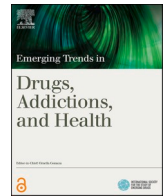Contents lists available at ScienceDirect

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Introducing NewAddictionsX: A gateway to accelerated knowledge exchange in new and emerging addictions

Dear Editor,

We are writing to introduce a novel initiative that we believe will greatly benefit the research community within the field of new and emerging addictions. As advocates for open science and rapid dissemination of scholarly work, we are excited to announce the launch of a free preprint service NewAddictionsX Preprints (https://osf.io/preprints/newaddictionsx), endorsed by the International Society for the Study of Emerging Drugs (ISSED), and hosted on the Open Science Framework.

The purpose of this preprint service is to provide researchers and scholars with a platform for rapid, transparent, and accessible dissemination of research findings related to novel psychoactive substances, addictions, and associated health phenomena. This initiative aligns with the multidisciplinary nature of our field, welcoming submissions from diverse disciplines including pharmacology, clinical practice, mental health, public health, neuroscience, and beyond. The idea for this preprint service emerged during the opening session of the X *International Conference on Novel Psychoactive Substances*, held in Abu Dhabi, UAE, in November 2023. More specifically, it was formulated during the discussion that followed my keynote presentation titled "Celebrating 10 Years of Achievements: A Comprehensive Analysis of the Impact of the NPS Conference Series". During my talk, I presented a comprehensive literature review focusing on the main domains of research regarding Novel Psychoactive Substances (NPS) and analyzed their temporal evolution by comparing them with the topics presented at the International Conference series on NPS over the past decade. Importantly, we found that the material presented at the NPS Conferences anticipated the scientific literature by approximately 2.5 years (see also Carollo et al., 2023). Two years and a half is a non-trivial amount of time in the ever-changing NPS landscape, which requires rapidly available scientific evidence and fast policy making. I believe that these findings emphasize the value of in-person and face-to-face thematic events alongside faster publication processes. Moreover, the lively discussion that followed highlighted the need for a platform that facilitates the rapid dissemination of research findings in our field. The issue of a two-year delay between discussions about research topics and publishing corresponding scientific papers was a key point of the discussion. In the realm of new addictions, such a delay could prove too traditional and requires a more efficient approach. We thus established a preprint service to bridge this gap.

Preprints offer several distinct advantages to researchers in our field. Firstly, they facilitate the rapid dissemination of research findings, enabling authors to share their work with the scientific community without the delays inherent in traditional publishing models. This acceleration of knowledge exchange is particularly relevant and necessary in a field characterized by rapidly evolving trends and emerging phenomena. Moreover, preprints enhance the visibility and accessibility of research findings by providing unrestricted access to a global audience. In this way, preprints encourage and cultivate greater engagement with the research community and facilitate interdisciplinary collaborations essential for addressing complex challenges posed by new and emerging addictions. Furthermore, preprints invite open peer review and feedback from the community, thereby promoting transparency and enhancing the quality of research. This collaborative peer review process encourages constructive dialogue allowing researchers to refine and strengthen their scholarly work prior to formal publication.

In summary, the launch of this preprint service represents a significant step forward for the field of new and emerging addictions. By embracing open science principles and leveraging the benefits of preprints, we aim to simultaneously foster collaboration and strengthen our collective understanding of addiction-related phenomena. We invite authors to submit their preprints to our service and encourage readers to explore the latest research in our field. For more information and submission guidelines, please visit https://osf.io/preprints/newaddictionsx.

Thank you for considering this letter, and we look forward to your continued support of our efforts to promote open science and advance research in the field of new and emerging addictions.

CRediT authorship contribution statement

Gianluca Esposito: Conceptualization, Writing – original draft, Writing – review & editing.

Reference

Carollo, A., Corazza, O., Rabin, O., Coppola, A., Esposito, G., 2023. Understanding the evolving nature of novel psychoactive substances: mapping 10 years of research. Emerging Trends in Drugs, Addictions, and Health 3, 100055.

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