

[THE SCIENCE OF CONSCIOUSNESS | TSC 2020](#)
[APRIL 13-18, 2020 | Tucson | Arizona](#)
[Loews Ventana Canyon Resort](#)

Monday Morning Workshop - Session 1

Plants, Medicine and Consciousness

April 13, 9:00am-1:00pm

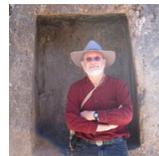
Schedule	Presenters	Topic
09:00am - 10:15am*	Dan Horner	Overview of psychedelics and psychoactive medicines.
10:15am - 10:30am	BREAK	BREAK
10:30am - 11:45am*	Rajnish Khanna	A unifying theory of consciousness involving psychoactive molecules as informational signaling mechanisms.
11:45am - 12:00pm	BREAK	BREAK
12:00pm - 01:00pm	DISCUSSION: Moderated by Rajnish Khanna. Panel: Dennis McKenna, Paul Stamets and Dan Horner	Why do plants synthesize molecules with neuro psychoactive properties?

*The two morning talks will be 60 min each, followed by 15 min for Q&A

ABOUT



Joshua (Dan) Horner: Is the Producer of the AZ Plant Medicine Conference, an educational conference about the research on Psychedelics, Cannabis, MDMA, Ketamine & Other Psychoactives and Non-Psychoactive alternative medicines.



Dennis McKenna: Has pursued interdisciplinary research in the study of Amazonian ethnopharmacology and plant hallucinogens for over 30 years. He is the author or co-author of 4 books and over 50 scientific papers in peer-reviewed journals.



Rajnish Khanna: Is a Photobiologist interested in how light signal influences organisms, which led him to a new theory for consciousness. Founder of [i-Cultiver](#) and [TerreLocal](#).



Paul Stamets: Founder of [Fungi Perfecti](#), Paul is an American mycologist with a long history on psilocybin mushrooms, having named several new species. He is actively engaged with research with several institutions on psilocybin mushrooms. He is also an author of six books, and advocate of fungi for the benefit of people and the planet.

TOPIC DESCRIPTION

Overview of psychedelics and psychoactive medicines

Joshua (Dan) Horner Dan Horner will discuss the different psychoactive plants and research on compounds such as MDMA, Ketamine, and LSD. Clearly these compounds change a person's state of consciousness and create activity in the brain unlike normal states of consciousness. Since the difference in both the subjective experience of consciousness and objective measurable brain activity is clear under use of these psychoactives, if we want to understand consciousness, we're missing a major inroad to do so if we don't study psychoactives. Some psychoactives have been shown to produce neurogenesis. Since what fires together, wires together in our brains, are we creating new consciousness through repeated use of these substances?

A unifying theory of consciousness involving psychoactive molecules as informational signaling mechanisms.

Dr. Rajnish Khanna will present thought experiments. As the fastest moving electromagnetic particle force, light travels across our known universe. The focus of this presentation will be information, carried by light with the capacity to inform biological systems. We will connect some dots between the measurable universe and the unmeasurable universe. Suggest a role for psychoactive molecules. Perhaps we can draw a logical map to guide us through the hidden aspects of reality. Are we closer to answering any of the age-old questions, like "who we are and where we came from?"

Why do plants synthesize molecules with neuro psychoactive properties?

Discussion Format

Rajnish Khanna (Moderator), Dennis McKenna, Joshua (Dan) Horner and Paul Stamets

We will discuss why are neuro psychoactive compounds synthesized by plants, why do mushrooms like *Psilocybe* make psilocybin and why does *Psychotria viridis* produce the psychoactive, dimethyltryptamine (DMT)? Are these compounds serving an intrinsic biochemical function in the mushrooms and plants or are they simply a sophisticated defense mechanism as is commonly suggested. We will look for possible answers in discussion with leaders in the field.