

National and Kapodistrian  
UNIVERSITY OF ATHENS  
Faculty of Chemistry

TMA-2013

**Optimization, validation, and  
application of  
LC-(QqQ)MS/MS for the  
determination and occurrence of  
new drugs of abuse in wastewater  
samples**

Viola L. Borova

Constantinos Pistos and Nikolaos S. Thomaidis

## What are “New Designer Drugs”

**INTRODUCTION**

**ANALYTICAL METHODOLOGY**

- OPTIMIZATION OF MS/MS
- OPTIMIZATION OF HPLC
- OPTIMIZATION OF SPE


**METHOD VALIDATION**


**APPLICATION IN REAL INFLUENT WASTEWATER SAMPLES**

**CONCLUSIONS**

- *Designer Drugs:*
  - Synthetically changed natural substances
  - Completely designed molecular structures
- *New Designer Psychotropic Drugs:*
  - Drug alternatives
  - Optimized effects of already existing drugs
    - Higher binding affinity with CB1, greater potency and adverse effects and longer duration of action
  - Not covered in most countries by controlled substance statutes
    - avoid detection and legal consequences
  - “Spice” drugs (smoking mixtures, herbal mixtures), bath salts on the recreational drug use market

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<b>Classes of New Designer Drugs</b>	
<p><b>INTRODUCTION</b></p> <p><b>ANALYTICAL METHODOLOGY</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>•OPTIMIZATION OF MS/MS</li> <li>•OPTIMIZATION OF HPLC</li> <li>•OPTIMIZATION OF SPE</li> </ul> <p><b>METHOD VALIDATION</b></p> <p><b>APPLICATION IN REAL INFLUENT WASTEWATER SAMPLES</b></p> <p><b>CONCLUSIONS</b></p>	<div style="background-color: #006666; color: white; padding: 5px; margin-bottom: 10px;"><b>Phenylalkylamines</b></div> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Beta-keto (mephedrone, butylone (bk-MBDB), methylone (bk-MDMA))</li> </ul> <div style="background-color: #660066; color: white; padding: 5px; margin-bottom: 10px;"><b>Piperazines</b></div> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Phenylpiperazine (DCPP, mCPP, MeOPP, pCPP, TFMPP)</li> <li>• Benzylpiperazine (BZP, MBZP, DBZP, MDBZP)</li> </ul> <div style="background-color: #cc6633; color: white; padding: 5px; margin-bottom: 10px;"><b>Synthetic Cannabinoids</b></div> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• JWH cannabinoids (John W. Huffman),</li> <li>• (JWH 018, JWH 073 aminoalkylindoles series and more than 400 cannabinoids)</li> <li>• CP47, 497 (From Pfizer, cyclohexylphenol series) (analog CP47,497 and homologue C6,C7,C8,C9)</li> </ul> <div style="background-color: #663333; color: white; padding: 5px; margin-bottom: 10px;"><b>Pyrrolidinophenones</b></div> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Derivatives (PPP, MPPP, MPHP, MOPPP, MDPPP)</li> </ul> <div style="text-align: right; margin-top: 20px;">  </div>

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## New Designer Drugs... a new class of emerging organic contaminants

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CONCLUSIONS

- Not currently covered by existing water quality regulations
- Not investigated or little
- Newly identified or previously unrecognized
- Lack of environmental data
- Lack of analytical methods in wastewater
- Large volume of consumption and production
- Potential threats to ecosystems and human (limited information)

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## ANALYTICAL METHODOLOGY

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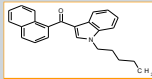
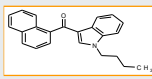
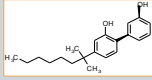
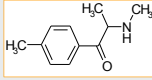
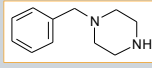
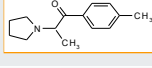
APPLICATION IN REAL INFLUENT WASTEWATER SAMPLES

CONCLUSIONS

Thermo Scientific Quantum Access

LC- (QqQ) MS/MS -ESI

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TARGET COMPOUNDS						
INTRODUCTION						
ANALYTICAL METHODOLOGY	Compounds		M. Formula	MW	LogP	pKa
•OPTIMIZATION OF MS/MS	<b>JWH-018</b> naphthalen-1-yl-(1-pentyl-1H-indol-3-yl) methanone / <b>JWH-018 D9</b>		C <sub>24</sub> H <sub>23</sub> NO	341.5	6.51	-
•OPTIMIZATION OF HPLC	<b>JWH-073</b> (1-Butyl-1H-indol-3-yl)(1-naphthyl) methanone		C <sub>23</sub> H <sub>21</sub> NO	327.4	6.07	-
•OPTIMIZATION OF SPE	<b>CP47,497</b> 2-[(1R,3S)-3-hydroxycyclohexyl]-5-(2-methyloctan-2-yl)phenol		C <sub>21</sub> H <sub>34</sub> O <sub>2</sub>	318.5	6.17	-
METHOD VALIDATION	<b>Mephedrone / Mephedrone D3</b>		C <sub>11</sub> H <sub>15</sub> NO	177.2	2.12	8.69
APPLICATION IN REAL INFLUENT WASTEWATER SAMPLES	<b>Benzylpiperazine /BZP D7</b>		C <sub>11</sub> H <sub>16</sub> N <sub>2</sub>	176.2	1.38	9.59
CONCLUSIONS	<b>MPPP</b> 4'-Methyl-α-pyrrolidinopropiophenone		C <sub>14</sub> H <sub>19</sub> NO	217.3	2.91	-

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Method Development and Optimization of MS/MS					
INTRODUCTION					
ANALYTICAL METHODOLOGY	Compounds	[M+H] <sup>+</sup>	Product Ions (collision energy)	Tube Lens (V)	ESI
•OPTIMIZATION OF MS/MS	<b>JWH-018</b>	342.1	155.0 (25V) 127.0 (44V)	81.8	+
•OPTIMIZATION OF HPLC	<b>JWH-018 D9</b>	351.1	155.0 (26V) 127.0 (45V)	80.1	+
•OPTIMIZATION OF SPE	<b>JWH-073</b>	328.1	154.9 (25V) 127.0 (43V)	76.3	+
METHOD VALIDATION	<b>CP47,497</b>	317.2	298.9 (24V) 244.7 (34V)	99.1	-
APPLICATION IN REAL INFLUENT WASTEWATER SAMPLES	<b>Mephedrone</b>	178.1	160.0 (12V) 145.0 (19V)	48.1	+
CONCLUSIONS	<b>Mephedrone D3</b>	181.1	163.0 (12V) 148.0 (21V)	49.0	+
	<b>BZP</b>	177.1	91.2 (28V) 65.3 (40V)	62.5	+
	<b>BZP D7</b>	184.1	98.2 (27V) 70.3 (40V)	66.3	+
	<b>MPPP</b>	218.1	119.1 (24V) 146.9 (18V)	61.1	+

**Positive Ionization**

Probe: C (0.5/1.5)  
Spray Voltage: 3500 V  
Sheath gas: 30 a.u.  
Aux gas: 10 a.u.  
Temp: 270°C

**Negative Ionization**

Probe: C (0.5/1.5)  
Spray Voltage: 2500 V  
Sheath gas: 20 a.u.  
Aux gas: 10 a.u.  
Temp: 300°C

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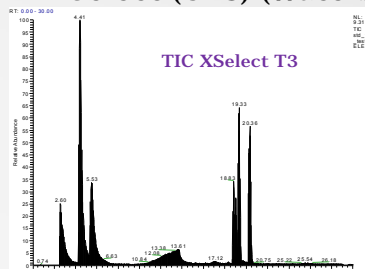
METHOD VALIDATION

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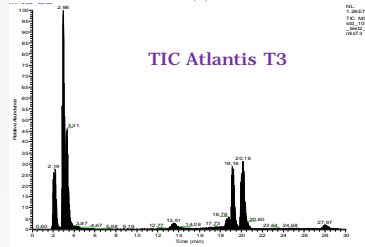
CONCLUSIONS

## Comparison of stationary phases

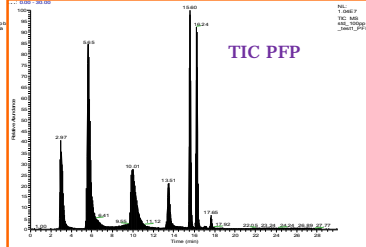
Stationary phases: Atlantis T3 (C18) (Waters), XSelect (C18) (Waters) & PFP (Phenomenex)



TIC XSelect T3




TIC Atlantis T3



TIC PFP

- ❖ Compounds with -NH<sub>2</sub> or -NH- presented higher asymmetry (fronting) on C18 column
- ❖ Xselect and Atlantis T3 suffer from peak shape issues and do not provide good separation of the compounds
- ❖ PFP: excellent peak shape, good resolution and separation in short time with excellent MS sensitivity



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## Mobile Phase

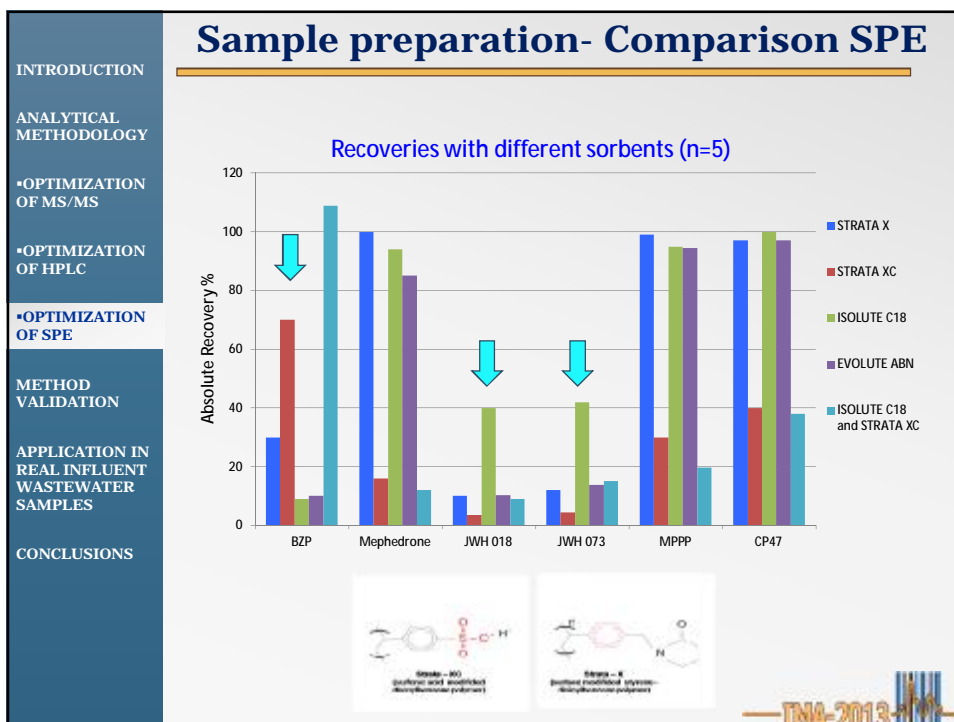
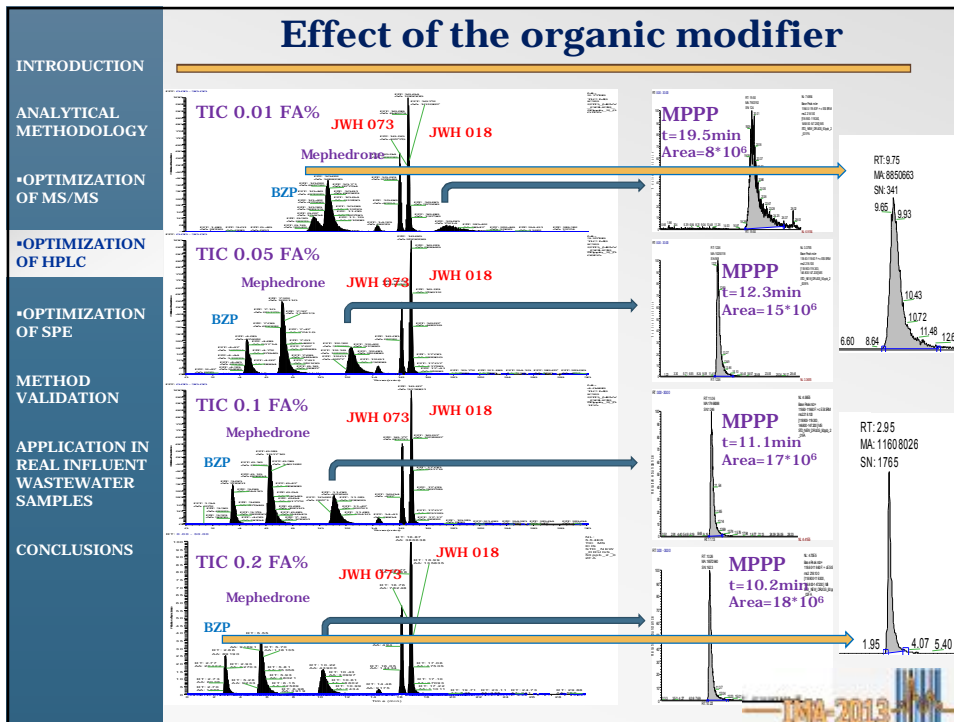
JWH 018, JWH 073,  
Mephedrone, Benzylpiperazine, MPPP

Positive	H <sub>2</sub> O (0.2% formic acid)	MeOH	µL/min
0.00	60	40	100
3.00	60	40	150
15.00	0.0	100	100
25.00	0.0	100	100
25.50	60	40	100
30.00	60	40	100

CP47, 497

Negative	MeOH	ACN	µL/min
0.00	90	10	100
3.00	90	10	100
15.00	90	10	100





## Sample preparation

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1. Wastewater samples were filtered on Glass fiber filters
2. 50 mL of filtrated sample were adjusted at a value of pH 2.5 with HCl (1 M)
3. Internal deuterated standards of the compounds were added to all samples
4. SPE (STRATA-X/ISOLUTE C18, STATA-XC)

Reconstitution :  
500 µL of 40% MeOH and  
60% ultra purified water  
with 0.05% v/v formic acid

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## Validation for wastewater samples

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	Linear range µg/L	Corr. Coefficient R <sup>2</sup>	method LOD [ng/L]	Absolute Recovery % (n=5)	RSD% (n=5)
BZP	1 - 100	0.9993	4.8	29.0	14.8
Mephedrone	1 - 100	0.9994	0.3	100	3.7
MPPP	1 - 100	0.9994	0.6	99.0	4.2
CP47,497	1 - 100	0.9991	37	97.0	15.2
JWH 018	1 - 100	0.9991	1.4	40.0	8.3
JWH 073	1 - 100	0.9992	0.8	42.0	15.3

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## Wastewater Samples from WWTP Santorini



Sampling  
23/07/2013- 29/07/2013

- ✓Population: 10500 inhabitants
- ✓Flow rate: 1500 m<sup>3</sup>/day

- ✓Mediterranean climate
- ✓High anthropogenic impact



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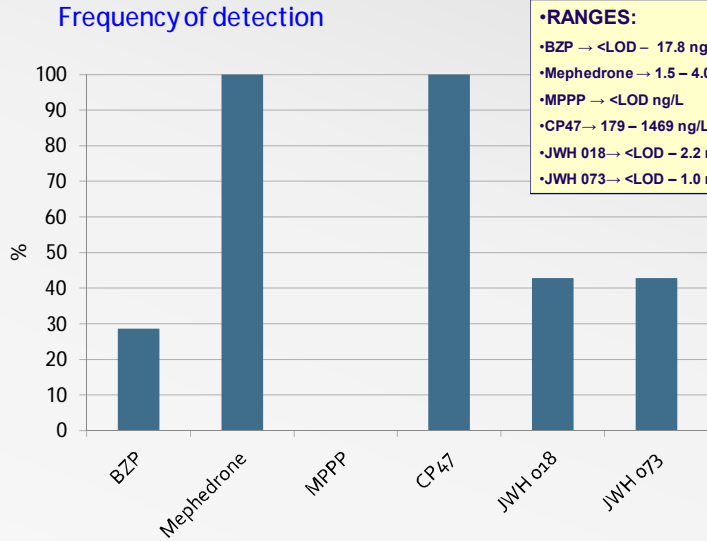
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## Wastewater Samples from WWTP Santorini


### Frequency of detection



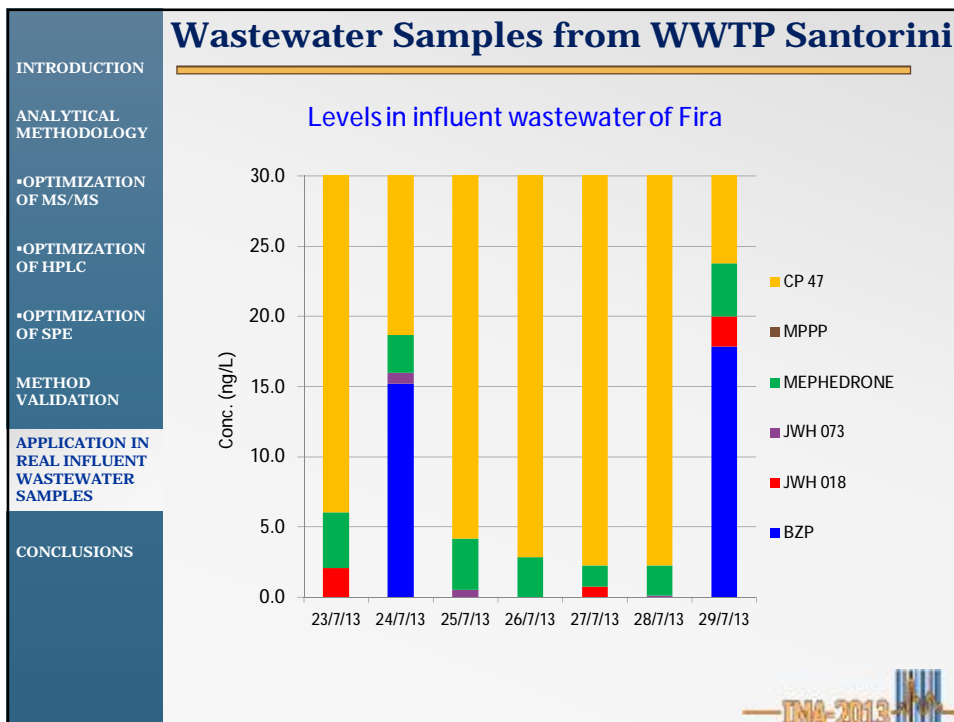
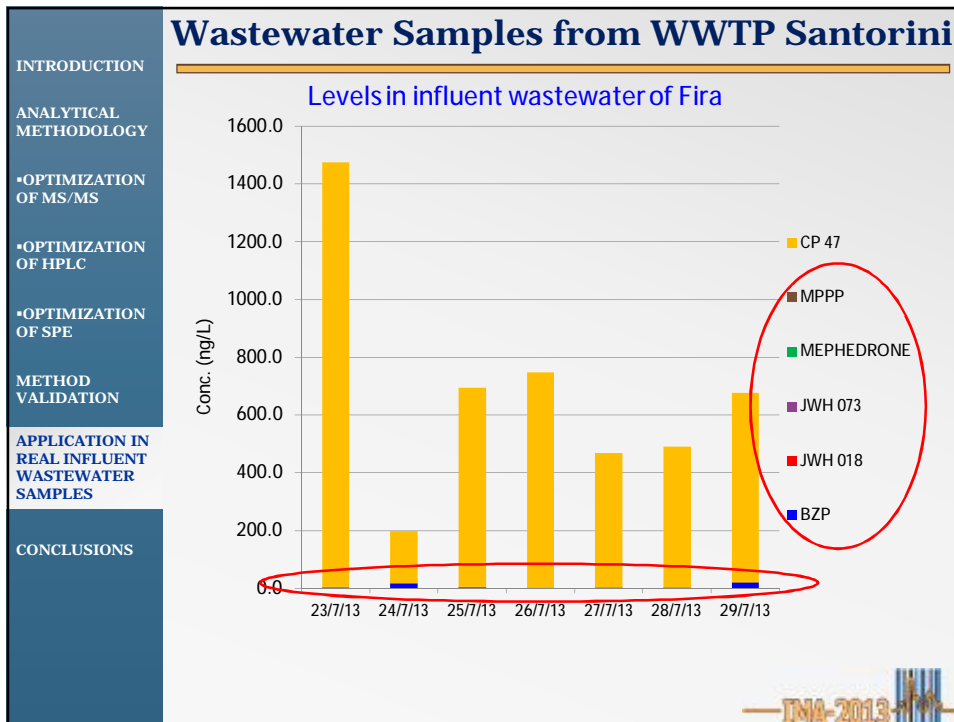
Compound	Frequency of detection (%)
BZP	30
Mephedrone	100
MPPP	0
CP47	100
JWH 018	45
JWH 073	45


**•RANGES:**


- BZP → <LOD – 17.8 ng/L
- Mephedrone → 1.5 – 4.0 ng/L
- MPPP → <LOD ng/L
- CP47 → 179 – 1469 ng/L
- JWH 018 → <LOD – 2.2 ng/L
- JWH 073 → <LOD – 1.0 ng/L







INTRODUCTION  ANALYTICAL METHODOLOGY  •OPTIMIZATION OF MS/MS  •OPTIMIZATION OF HPLC  •OPTIMIZATION OF SPE  METHOD VALIDATION  APPLICATION IN REAL INFLUENT WASTEWATER SAMPLES  CONCLUSIONS	<h2 style="color: #1f4e79;">CONCLUSIONS</h2> <hr style="border: 1px solid #1f4e79;"/> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>✓ <b>Development and validation of a novel method for new designer drugs in wastewater by LC-MS/MS</b></li> <li>✓ <b>Investigation of their occurrence in a WWTP in Santorini Island</b></li> <li>✓ <b>5 out of the 6 compounds were detected at least in one day</b></li> <li>✓ <b>CP47 was detected for the first time in influent wastewater</b></li> <li>✓ <b>Not any special trend among the days was observed for mephedrone and CP47</b></li> </ul> <div style="text-align: right; margin-top: 20px;">  </div>
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# THANK YOU VERY MUCH!!!

Questions?

Contact information: [vborova@chem.uoa.gr](mailto:vborova@chem.uoa.gr)  
[ntho@chem.uoa.gr](mailto:ntho@chem.uoa.gr)

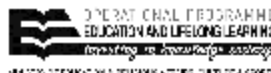


<http://trams.chem.uoa.gr/>

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European Union  
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