

Special Issue

Psychedelic Therapy in Palliative Care

Message from the Guest Editors

Advanced, progressive, and incurable diseases represent significant changes in a person's physical, emotional, social, and spiritual well-being. Some may experience personal growth, while others struggle with anxiety, depression, or existential distress.

Unfortunately, treatments for these conditions in terminally ill patients remain uncertain. Antidepressants show inconsistent results, and psychotherapies addressing existential distress offer temporary relief but do not consistently reduce depression or anxiety. In response, psychedelics have emerged as a potential treatment for unmet needs in palliative care. Early studies suggested psychedelics could improve mood, reduce pain, and foster a more positive outlook on death. Although research was halted in the late 1960s, recent studies on substances like LSD, psilocybin, and ketamine show promising results. In this context, we invite contributions from all palliative care-related disciplines to support the development of psychedelic medicine for end-of-life care.

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