National Association of State Controlled Substances Authorities

October 6, 2026

NASCSA's 42nd Annual Conference Updated Conference Agenda Available

NASCSA's 42nd annual conference taking place at the **Holiday Inn-By-The Bay in Portland, Maine October 26-29, 2026** less than three weeks away. We have a great turnout so far, with representatives from 41 states already registered, and more expected to register in the coming weeks as the countdown continues.

We have some exciting plans for this year's conference with many opportunities to network with your colleagues. Conference and Hotel Registration information is already available online. Please submit your conference registration and book your hotel early to reserve a room as soon as possible if you have not done so already. While the room block is technically sold out, we may be able to assist. Please contact the office if you do need hotel reservations.

The Program Committee has been hard at work already with some exciting sessions and workshops planned throughout the week on a wide variety of topics. A final agenda is available **here**.

Important travel note: *Attendees may wish to explore flying to Boston rather than Portland, Maine depending on your departure city. There are two options: (1)* ***Concord Coach Lines*** *leaves from Boston Logan Airport directly to Portland, Maine which is about a 2 hour bus ride and then take an Uber/Taxi to the Holiday Inn By-the-Bay (less than a 10 min ride); or (2) Take* ***Amtrak Downeaster*** *that leaves from North Station in Boston (this would require taking the subway from Logan Airport to North Station and arrives in Portland, Maine and then take an Uber/Taxi to the hotel. Option 1*

President's Message

As we head into Fall, I'm excited that our **42nd NASCSA Annual Conference is just around the corner, October 26–29 in Portland, Maine!**

We have a great program planned this year, featuring outstanding speakers, valuable educational sessions, and plenty of opportunities to connect, share ideas, and network with colleagues from across the country. With **more than 200 attendees already registered**, we're looking forward to a fantastic turnout and another successful conference.

Events like this don't happen without the dedication of many people behind the scenes. I want to extend a special thank you to **all of our committee volunteers and sponsors** for their time, commitment, and continued support of NASCSA.

I also want to recognize our **Executive Director, Kathy Keough**, who has worked tirelessly alongside our committees to prepare for this year's conference. Kathy's dedication and leadership throughout the planning process are greatly appreciated and play an important role in making this event possible.

The Annual Conference is always one of the highlights of the year for our association. It

in my opinion is much less stressful but it's an option. Neither is necessary if you prefer to just fly into Portland, Maine directly.

Important Business Meeting Information
Proposed Bylaw Changes and Resolutions

Regular members are advised to review the **business meeting agenda** that will take place at the annual conference along with proposed **bylaw changes and resolutions**. The business meeting is open to all and we encourage all attendees at the conference to attend.

Regular members are strongly encouraged to review these documents in advance of the meeting and view the Town Hall presentation on our **YouTube channel** that features highlights of NASCA's committees as well as a review of the proposed bylaw changes and resolutions.

Help NASCSA Expand Its Social Media Reach

We are looking for several volunteers who would be willing to provide a testimonial about the value of membership in NASCSA and or periodic "Member Monday" to be showcased on social media. Please contact Executive Director Kathy Keough at **kathykeough@nascsa.org** for more information.

Interested in Getting Involved? Consider Joining a Committee!

NASCSA relies on its volunteers. Participation on committees is available for regular members and associate members. If you are interested in joining any of our committees, please contact Kathy Keough at **kathykeough@nascsa.org** for more information. A listing of responsibilities and current membership of our committees is found **here**.

gives us an opportunity not only to continue our education and professional development, but to strengthen the relationships and connections that make NASCSA such a valuable organization.
I hope to see everyone in **Portland, Maine, October 26–29**. I'm looking forward to a great conference and to catching up with many of you in person!

Warm Regards,

Eric Griffin
President, NASCSA

Education Committee Spotlight

Submitted by Chelsea Townsend (SC), Chair, Education Committee and Board Member

The NASCSA Education Committee plays a central role in shaping and delivering high-quality educational opportunities for members and stakeholders across the controlled substances landscape. Comprised of representatives from state controlled substances authorities as well as industry professionals-including pharmaceutical manufacturers, distributors, and software vendors-the committee brings together a wide range of expertise. This diverse membership helps ensure that each educational offering reflects current trends, emerging challenges, and practical insights relevant to the field.

Over the past year, the committee has hosted numerous webinars covering important and timely topics such as emerging drug trends, presidential executive orders, prescription monitoring program updates, and online pharmacy safety. These sessions blend data, policy, and law to provide a comprehensive look at the issues shaping today's controlled substance environment. With the webinar schedule now posted through January 2027, members have access to a robust lineup of impactful topics. All NASCSA members are encouraged to take advantage of these opportunities to stay informed and engaged in this rapidly evolving space.

Upcoming Webinars

Check out the Legislative Tracker from the Federation of State Medical Boards

The Federation of State Medical Boards (**FSMB**) maintains a free, public legislative tracker for a myriad of legislative topics impacting the regulation and practice of medicine as well as related controlled substance issues including: **artificial intelligence**, **license portability**, **pain management**, and **telemedicine**. A full list can be found **here**. FSMB also has a **newsletter** that may be of interest to our members.

Federal News:

Telemedicine Special Registration Under Review

On August 25, the Special Registrations for Telemedicine and Limited State Telemedicine Registrations final rule **began** the White House Office of Management and Budget (OMB) review. Based on the Justice Department's forecast, the final rule is expected in November 2026.

On December 30, 2025, the Drug Enforcement Administration (DEA) published a **fourth temporary extension** of Telemedicine Flexibilities for Prescription of Controlled Medications, which provides a one-year extension through December 31, 2026. The DEA announced its intention in the Unified Regulatory Agenda to consider a **final rule** on Special Registrations for Telemedicine and Limited State Telemedicine Registrations in November 2026.

GAO Recommends Scheduling Process be Strengthened

September 23, 2026 - A recent report issued by the General Accounting Office (GAO) released last week made a number of recommendations related to the scheduling processes by the US Drug Enforcement Administration (DEA) as well as other

Open to Members and Sponsors

Thanks to the tireless efforts of NASCSA's Education Committee we are pleased to announce our fall lineup of webinars on a variety of timely topics.

- **November 10, 2026 at 3 p.m. ET** – An Insider's View from Former Chief Administrative Law Judge of the Drug Enforcement Administration John Mulrooney and Former Assistant U.S. Attorney Andrew Hull– Click **here** to register.
- **December 8, 2026 at 2 p.m. ET** - Evolving Methadone Landscape: Evidence, Policy, Access, and the Future of Care – Click **here** to register.
- **January 26, 2027 – 3-4 p.m. ET** – Diversion of HIV and Other Medications - click **here** to register

Industry News

- On September 8, **Definium Therapeutics**, a psychedelic-focused biotech company, **announced** that the Food and Drug Administration had granted breakthrough therapy designation for DT120, its investigational LSD oral tablet, for major depressive disorder. Drugs in early development can earn the designation when they show promise in clinical trial data. In April 2026, the Trump Administration issued an **executive order** that directed federal agencies to boost research efforts in psychedelic therapies.
- **Compass Pathways** was recently granted New Drug Application (NDA) rolling review by the U.S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA). The rolling review is underway and Compass is on track to complete its NDA submission in the fourth quarter of 2026. Following a potential approval, the Drug Enforcement Administration will reschedule the substance approximately 90 days after.
- Compass Pathway's initial focus is developing COMP360 psilocybin, a proprietary, investigational, synthetic psilocybin treatment under evaluation

agencies. A copy of the full report is found **here**.

Article on the Food and Drug Administration's New Framework for Psychedelic Drugs

Michael Davis, Director of **FDA's Center for Drug Evaluation and Research**, coauthored an article in the *New England Journal of Medicine (Subscription Required).* "***FDA's New Framework for Psychedelic Drugs***," which said that the agency will consider innovative new ways to evaluate psychedelic compounds for treating mental illness, including using other active treatments as a comparator or using different doses, due to the difficulty of placebo-controlled trials. Additionally, the FDA may be willing to grant initial approval based on promising results over a "clinically meaningful duration," such as 12 weeks, coupled with subsequent assessments of how treatments work over a longer period of time.

DEA Issues Temporary Order Placing Three Kratom Related Products on Schedule I

DEA is issued a temporary order to schedule three 7-hydroxymitragynine-related substances (mitragynine pseudoindoxyl, MGM–15, and MGM–16), including their isomers, esters, ethers, salts, and salts of isomers, esters, and ethers, whenever the existence of such isomers, esters, ethers, and salts is possible, in schedule I of the Controlled Substances Act. DEA bases this action on a finding that placing mitragynine pseudoindoxyl, MGM–15, and MGM–16 in schedule I is necessary to avoid an imminent hazard to public safety.

This temporary order is effective August 26, 2026, until August 26, 2028. If this order is extended or made permanent, DEA will publish a document in the Federal Register. [Federal Register. Vol. 91, No. 164, at 54948. 26 Aug 2026.]

Important Notice: Updates on Our Communication Methods

for treatment-resistant depression (TRD) and post-traumatic stress disorder (PTSD). COMP360 is a potentially first-in-class treatment and has Breakthrough Therapy designation from the U.S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA), as well as Innovative Licensing and Access Pathway (ILAP) designation in the UK for TRD. For more information visit: **compasspathways.com**.

- **Otsuka** Pharmaceutical Development & Commercialization, Inc. and Otsuka Pharmaceutical Co., Ltd. (Otsuka) today announced that the U.S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA) has granted approval of SIMTRIYO® (centanafadine), a once-daily extended-release capsule for the treatment of attention-deficit hyperactivity disorder (ADHD) in adults and pediatric patients aged 6 years and older weighing at least 20kg.

- August 5, 2026 - **Takeda** announced that the **U.S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA) approved** ORZEYFUL™ (oveporexton), an oral orexin receptor 2 (OX2R) agonist, for the treatment of narcolepsy type 1 (NT1, narcolepsy with cataplexy) in adults.* The persistent 24-hour nature of NT1 is driven by orexin deficiency and can severely impact people's lives. As a first-in-class orexin treatment, ORZEYFUL is the only medicine indicated in the U.S. to treat the disease holistically rather than individual symptoms. The controlled substance classification for ORZEYFUL is currently under review by the Drug Enforcement Administration (DEA) and is expected within 90 days. After the controlled substance classification is determined, ORZEYFUL will be made available through a specialty pharmacy to U.S. healthcare providers and adults living with NT1.

Mark Your Calendars for Our Future Conference Dates!

2027 Conference – October 18-21, 2027 – Hotel Albuquerque Old Town – Albuquerque, New Mexico

NASCSA utilizes the Constant Contact platform to send out various important updates and communications. This includes information on webinars, presentations, podcasts, and newsletters that are vital to our collective mission and efforts.

To better serve you, the communications through the platform are sent from the following domain name: nascsa.ccsend.com. However, we have become aware that certain organizations' firewalls may not recognize this domain name, which may prevent the emails from being delivered successfully.

To ensure that you receive all our communications promptly, we kindly request that you grant permission for emails from the **domain nascsa.ccsend.com** to pass through your organization's firewall. This will help ensure that you stay informed about all the latest developments, resources, and opportunities available to you through our organization.

Thank you for your attention to this matter and for your continued support and engagement. Should you have any questions or require assistance with this process, please do not hesitate to contact John Gadea, Webmaster at **Johngadea@nascsa.org**

Join the Conversation!

We are pleased to announce that the National Association of State Controlled Substances Authorities (NASCSA) has launched additional social media resources.

If you are on **Facebook**, **Linkedin**, **Instagram**, and or **X**, please follow us, join the conversation and share with your colleagues.

Did You Know?

To get a quick look at upcoming committee meetings, webinars, conferences and other events check out our events calendar on our website **here**.

2028 Conference – October 23-26, 2028 – Francis Marion Hotel, Charleston, South Carolina

ANALYSIS GROUP

Analysis Group applies expertise in health economics and policy, epidemiology and biostatistics, modeling and data analytics, and large-scale database development to controlled-substance monitoring and related matters. Our work includes using distributor, pharmacy, and ARCOS data to assist clients facing government investigations; developing and enhancing suspicious order monitoring (SOM) algorithms and know-your-customer (KYC) analytics; and identifying outlier patterns in large datasets. We have collaborated with distributors and manufacturers to develop statistical models that detect suspicious orders and flag high-risk pharmacies and prescribers, as well as analytics dashboards used by our clients to support due diligence review. Our work is supported by our research on the abuse and misuse of prescription opioids and other controlled substances. Visit **our website** to learn more about our controlled-substance monitoring and analytics services.

Sponsorships Available

NASCSA relies on the generous support from its sponsors to keep the organization strong. If you are interested in becoming a sponsor, please find additional information **here**. If you are a current sponsor, thank you for your support! We kindly request current sponsors renew your sponsorship as soon as possible.

Note that increasing your sponsorship level to Gold or Platinum allows for an increase in the number of participants who can attend the annual conference.

NASCSA in the Media

Follow NASCSA on Linkedin, Twitter, Facebook and YouTube.

Have you listened to our NASCSA Podcasts?

Listen to a NASCSA Podcast

Contact NASCSA Staff

kathykeough@nascsa.org

Kathy Keough
Executive Director

johngadea@nascsa.org

John Gadea
Webmaster

or visit our website at **www.nascsa.org**

N.A.S.C.S.A | 276 SW Lake Forest Way | Port St. Lucie, FL 34986 US

Unsubscribe | Update Profile | Constant Contact Data Notice

Your copy should address 3 key questions: Who am I writing for (audience)? Why should they care (benefit)? What do I want them to do (call-to-action)?

Create a great offer by adding words like "free," "personalized," "complimentary," or "customized." A sense of urgency often helps readers take action, so consider inserting phrases like "for a limited time only" or "only 7 remaining!"

Constant Contact

Try email marketing for free today!