



*a shared dialogue among Occupational and Environmental Medicine Physicians,  
the Hennepin Regional Poison Center, the Minnesota Department of Health,  
and the University of Minnesota School of Public Health*

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## Environmental Exposure Grand Rounds

**Wednesday, May 3, 2017**

**7 a.m. to 8 a.m. in the Freeman Building, Room B144**

### Same Antidote, Different Drug: The Elephant (tranquilizer) in the Room

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Associate Medical Director, Minnesota Poison Control System  
Faculty Emergency Physician, Hennepin County Medical Center

The opioid epidemic continues its relentless march across America, and as our society's opioid abuse evolves, so too have the drugs fueling our addictions. Prescription opioid abuse developed alongside the already established problem of heroin addiction, and a resurgent heroin dependence has taken hold once again as prescription opioids have become more costly and difficult to acquire.

In this milieu of opioid dependence, a "new normal" has begun to emerge. Small epidemics of fatalities linked to ultrapotent heroin have occurred with increasing frequency in recent years, unmasking what we now know to be a sustained epidemic of heroin adulteration with high potency opioids, most notably fentanyl and its non-pharmaceutical analogs. What once was described as "the heroin epidemic" has shifted gears, as users now routinely run the risk of inadvertently administering doses that are orders of magnitude more potent than their normal doses. In short, the days of the "heroin overdose" are gone.

Please join us to discuss the changing face of the opioid epidemic through the eyes of the Minnesota Poison Control System.

#### **Join us at the Minnesota Department of Health: Freeman Building/Room B-144, 625 Robert St. N., St. Paul, 55155**

- Street parking is free before 8 a.m.
- Metered parking is available at Lot U located at N. Robert St. & 14<sup>th</sup> St. across from the entrance to the Freeman Bldg. or on the Orange Level of Centennial Parking Ramp on Rev. Dr. MLK. Jr. Blvd.
- Directions and Parking information available at <http://www.health.state.mn.us/about/freeman.html#parking>

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