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**The American Society for Pharmacology and Experimental Therapeutics (ASPET) Critiques the Drug Enforcement Administration's (DEA) Emergency Scheduling of All Illicit Fentanyl Analogues**

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**Bethesda, MD** - - Following this afternoon's announcement that the Drug Enforcement Administration (DEA) placed all illicit fentanyl analogues not already regulated by the Controlled Substances Act into Schedule 1, the American Society for Pharmacology and Experimental Therapeutics (ASPET) issued the following statement:

"ASPET is concerned by the DEA's announcement that it is emergency scheduling all illicit fentanyl analogues into the Schedule 1 classification. While this move is being enacted ostensibly to slow the number of overdose deaths in the U.S., it will severely curtail research on—and, therefore our understanding of—the pharmacological properties and risks of these synthetic analogues.

A Schedule 1 classification increases the regulatory burden on researchers significantly. The cost of licensing, the extended wait time to receive approval, the limitations on supply, the storage requirements, and the mandatory inspections all contribute to making research on Schedule 1 drugs both arduous and expensive.

ASPET recognizes the severity of the opioid crisis in the U.S. but believes that addiction can be better managed with an increased emphasis on pharmacological research on the effects of fentanyl and its analogues. The DEA's new scheduling classification of fentanyl analogues makes efforts to understand and devise treatments for synthetic opioid abuse that much more difficult."

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*The American Society for Pharmacology and Experimental Therapeutics (ASPET) is a 5,000+ member scientific society whose members conduct basic and clinical pharmacological research and work for academia, government, large pharmaceutical companies, small biotech companies, and non-profit organizations.*