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THINKNEURO
PODCAST

SURGERY, SHAMANISM, AND PSYCHEDELICS

FRANÇOISE BOURZAT
DR. DANIEL KELLY

Françoise Bourzat and **Dr. Daniel Kelly** came to the psychedelic therapy movement from very different places. Bourzat, a somatic psychologist, has spent decades in the mountains of Mexico, learning the traditions and rituals around the use of psychedelic mushrooms. Dr. Kelly has spent years in operating rooms, removing brain tumors. But they couldn't agree more on one big thing: psychedelics have the potential to transform mental health by helping millions of people who suffer from alcohol use disorder, depression, PTSD, anxiety, and existential crisis associated with disease and loss.

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PODCAST

COMBINING PSYCHEDELIC SCIENCE AND WISDOM AT TRIP A PNI PANEL

After decades of stigma, psilocybin from magic mushrooms is being rediscovered as a powerful treatment for alcoholism, drug addiction, and depression. This comes as no surprise to people like **Françoise Bourzat**, and **Dr. Keith Heinzerling**, an addiction medicine specialist and director of the **Treatment & Research in Psychedelics (TRIP)** program at PNI. Addiction is a stubborn disease, but research shows that a single psychedelic session can bring about the epiphanies that move many addicts to finally stop the abuse, provided there are adequate preparation and integration after the journey.

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CONTENTS

- ▶ PNI PODCAST SPECIAL EPISODES
- ▶ PNI FOUNDERS' MESSAGE
- ▶ MULTIPLE SCLEROSIS
- ▶ PNI DOCTOR IS A MEDSCAPE STAR

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PNI FOUNDERS' MESSAGE

Goodbye 2020...Hello 2021!

Although our medical community continues to strain under the burden of COVID-19, there has been hope, determination, and progress. At no other time in history has such attention been focused on the development of life-saving treatments for the critically ill and an enduring vaccine. Gratefully, the global medical community, pharmaceuticals, and governments have come together swiftly with several vaccine options in less than a year.

Against this backdrop, neurological diseases do not stop and neither have we at **Pacific Neuroscience Institute**. Along with our affiliated hospitals, **Providence Saint John's Health Center** and **Little Company of Mary Medical Center**, we were able to quickly implement strict safety protocols for patients, visitors, and staff, so that we could continue to provide the highest quality of care. We have expanded our medical teams to include new specialists in facial paralysis, neuro-oncology, stroke, and neurovascular diseases. In addition, our specialized teams were able to provide innovative treatments through clinical trials

for difficult brain and CNS tumors, pituitary tumors, essential tremor, stroke, and Alzheimer's disease.

The Treatment & Research In Psychedelics (TRIP) program is providing relief using FDA-approved medications for mental health issues including addiction, anxiety, and depression which are particularly rampant at this time. With the expansion of the TRIP team, we're poised to begin a psilocybin clinical trial for alcohol use disorder in late January.

[Family caregivers often bear the brunt of profound loss](#) of loved ones due to COVID-19, cancer, dementia, and other diseases, and we are working to address prolonged grief through a forthcoming psychedelic-assisted clinical trial protocol, hopefully in early 2021.

We continue building the PNI Foundation infrastructure in partnership with Saint John's Health Center Foundation to support robust PNI growth. In 2020, we welcomed our new PNI Foundation VP, **Melissa Coleman, Esq.**, and our Innovation Director, **Dr. Neil Martin**, as well as two new advisors to the PNIF board, **Michael Ricks** and **Louie Schwartzberg**.

Our commitment to care is achieved through philanthropy and our donor community

continues to play an essential role in PNI's ongoing ability to make a difference in diagnosing, treating, and preventing disorders of the brain and nervous system.

This collaboration translates to immediate impact with real and lasting results for patients and their families.

To all of our supporters, we thank you. In 2020, we were incredibly fortunate in the support of our Brain Health and Brain Tumor programs.

We especially would like to thank the **Singleton Family**. Their \$40M transformational gift is helping us pioneer new advances to address and cure Alzheimer's Disease and other related memory disorders.

We enter 2021 with a deep commitment to treating our patients, doing groundbreaking research, providing innovative clinical trials, and above all striving for excellence in all we do.

Think Neuro. Think PNI.

*Sincerely,
Daniel F. Kelly, MD,
Chester F. Griffiths, MD,
Howard R. Krauss, MD
Santosh Kesari, MD, PhD*

[Read More](#)

MULTIPLE SCLEROSIS BRAIN & LIFE SPECIAL ISSUE



In the **Multiple Sclerosis Special Fall 2020** issue of **Brain & Life**, guest editor, PNI's **Barbara Giesser, MD, FAAN, FANA**, writes, "Living with multiple sclerosis requires patience and diligence, but the prognosis for leading a full life is better than ever."

[Find Out More](#)

DR. WALAVAN SIVAKUMAR NAMED IN MEDSCAPE'S TOP 25 RISING STARS



As part of **Medscape's celebration of its 25th anniversary**, it is recognizing 25 young physicians from across the US who are rising stars in medicine. Pacific Neuroscience Institute's **Walavan Sivakumar, MD**, was selected for this exclusive honor. *Congratulations!*

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