

# PRECURSOR CONTROL AND THE CHEMISTRY OF NEW PSYCHOACTIVE SUBSTANCES

V INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE ON NEW PSYCHOACTIVE SUBSTANCES  
VIENNA, AUSTRIA, 23-24 OCTOBER 2017

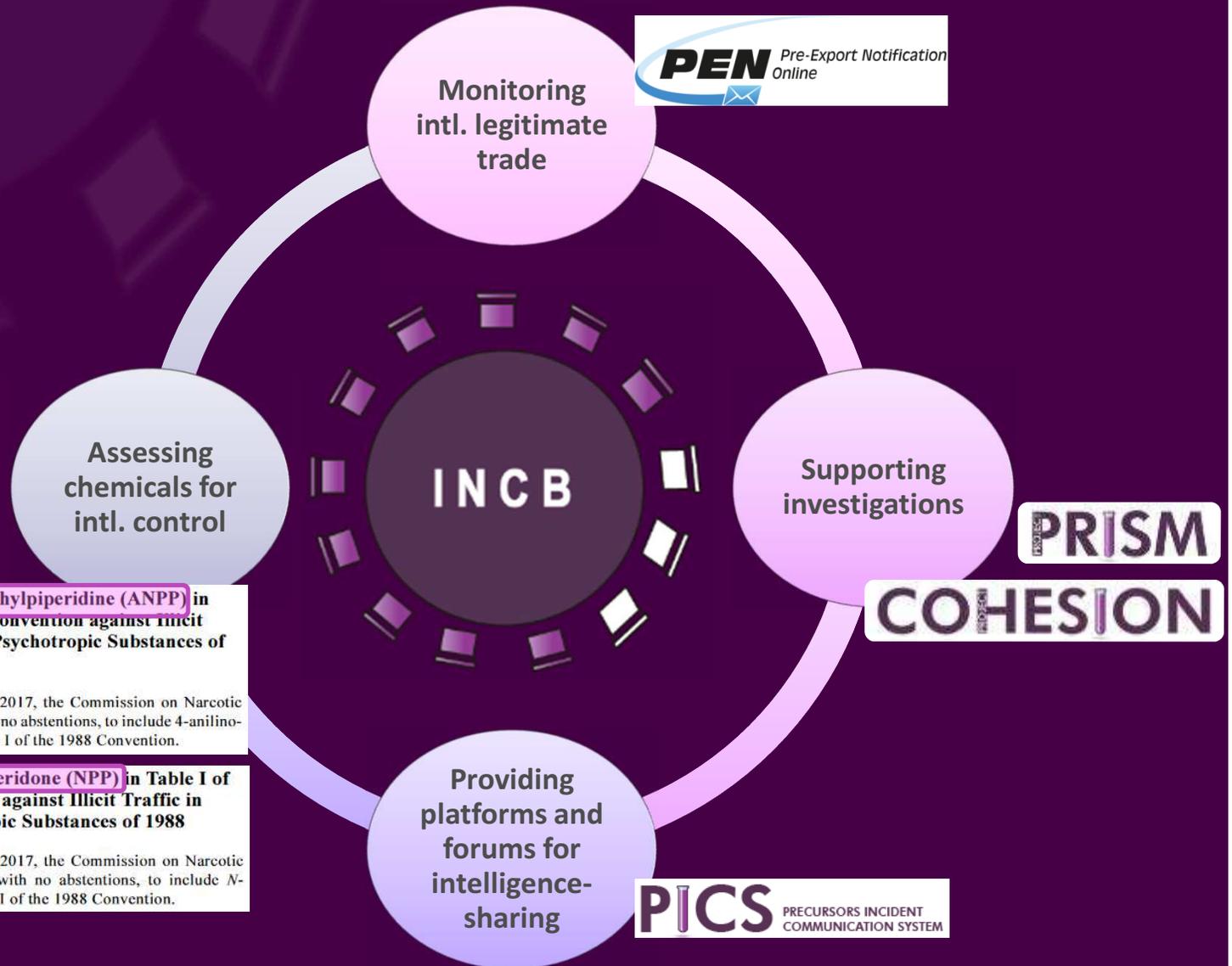
INCB Precursors Control



Precursors Control Section, SINCB

# INCB precursors control: Supporting Governments' efforts in diversion prevention and investigation

INCB Precursors Control



# International precursor control

## Basis

### *UN Convention against Illicit Traffic in Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances of 1988, Article 12*

Table I (1988 Convention)

- Acetic anhydride
- *N*-Acetylanthranilic acid
- **4-Anilino-*N*-phenethylpiperidine (ANPP)**
- Ephedrine
- Ergometrine
- Ergotamine
- Isosafrole
- Lysergic acid
- 3,4-Methylenedioxyphenyl-2-propanone
- Norephedrine
- 1-Phenyl-2-propanone
- ***N*-Phenethyl-4-piperidone (NPP)**
- Phenylacetic acid
- *alpha*-Phenylacetoacetonitrile (APAAN)
- Piperonal
- Potassium permanganate
- Pseudoephedrine
- Safrole

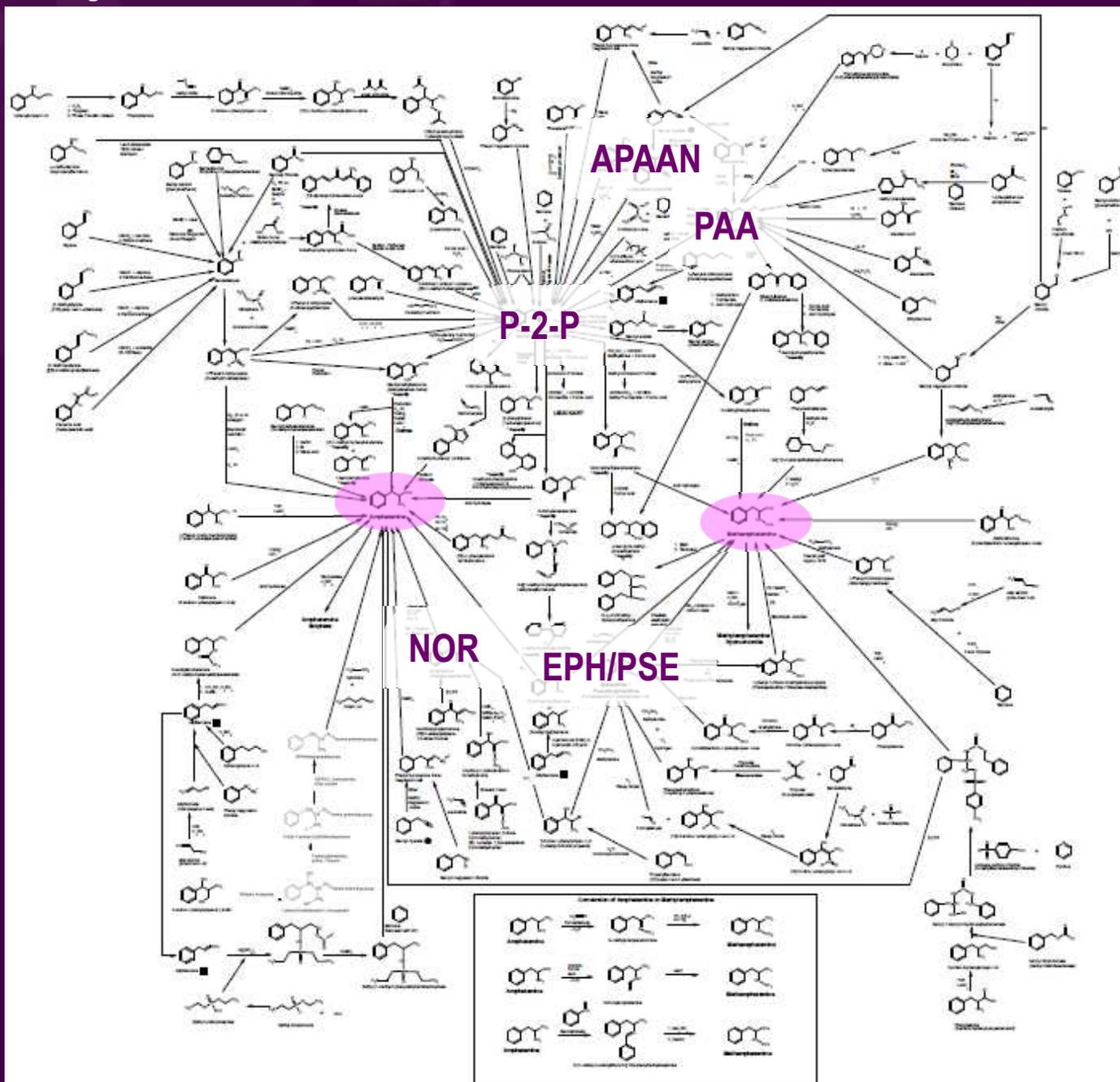
Table II (1988 Convention)

- Acetone
- Anthranilic acid
- Ethyl ether
- Hydrochloric acid
- Methyl ethyl ketone
- Piperidine
- Sulphuric acid
- Toluene

**Precursors of drugs  
under intl control**

AND: The salts of the listed substances whenever the existence of such salts is possible (salts of HCl and H<sub>2</sub>SO<sub>4</sub> are specifically excluded)

# ATS: precursors & non-scheduled chemicals



# Trends & challenges



Photos: Procuraduría General de la República de México, 2011



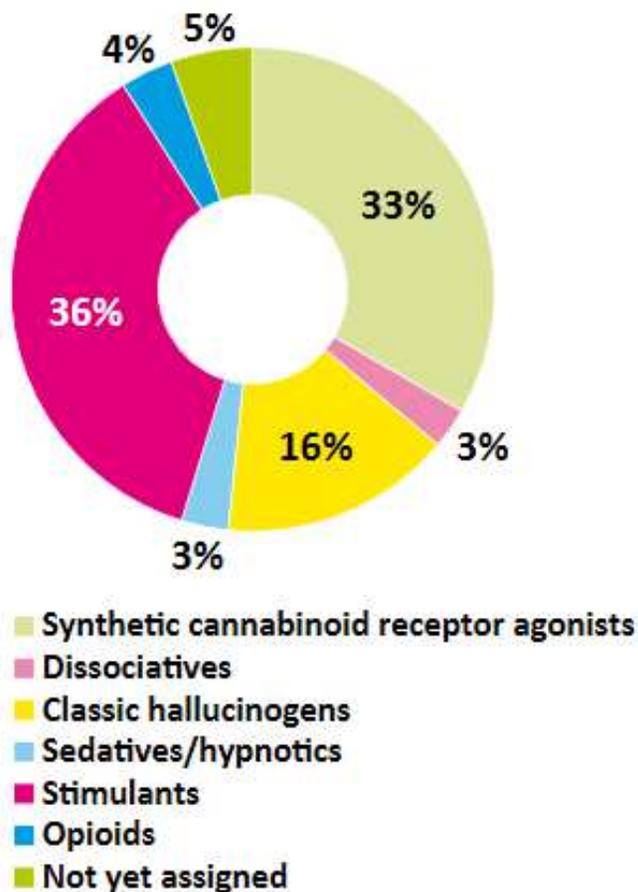
Photo: Narcotics Control Bureau, India, 2009

- **Major increases in sophistication**, diversification and scale of illicit manufacture (“*no limitations*”)
- **Changes in the sourcing of chemicals**: off-the-shelf → made-to-order “**designer precursors**” (contract syntheses; on request)
- Some chemicals are controlled, **but potentially unlimited number**: pre-precursors, chemical intermediaries, derivatives, products

# NPS substance groups: Effect vs chemistry

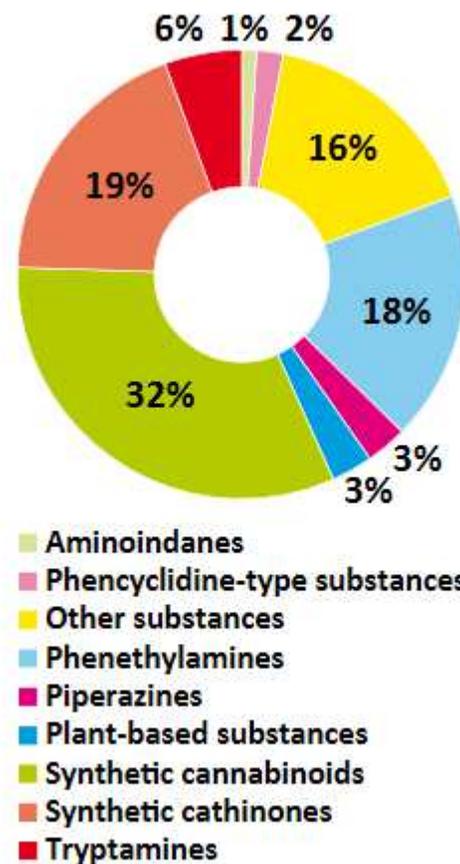


**FIG. 10** Proportion of new psychoactive substances, by pharmacological effect, December 2016



Source: UNODC, early warning advisory on new psychoactive substances. Based on the analysis of 717 NPS.

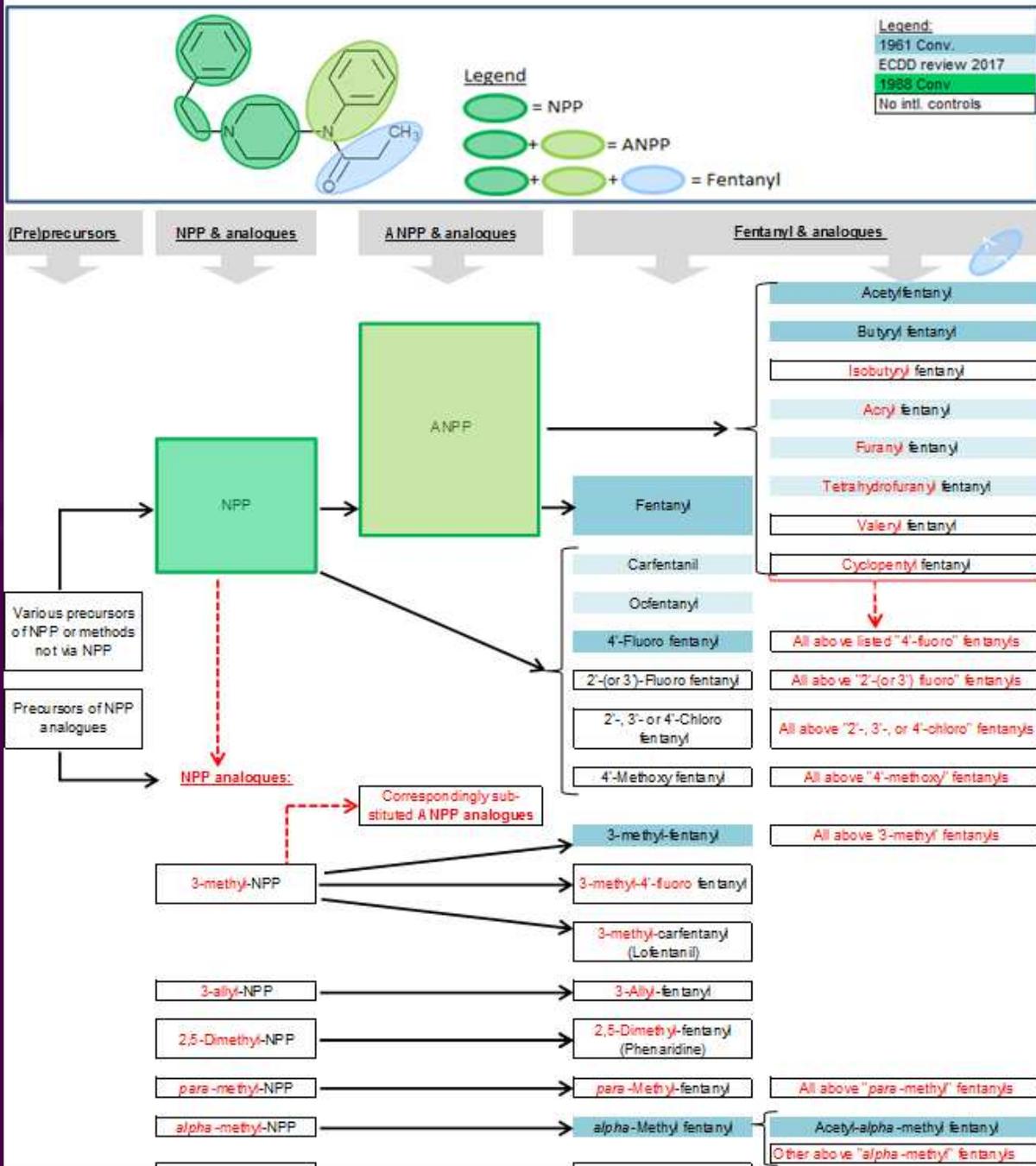
**FIG. 9** Proportion of new psychoactive substances, by substance category, December 2016



Source: UNODC, early warning advisory on new psychoactive substances. Based on the analysis of 739 NPS.



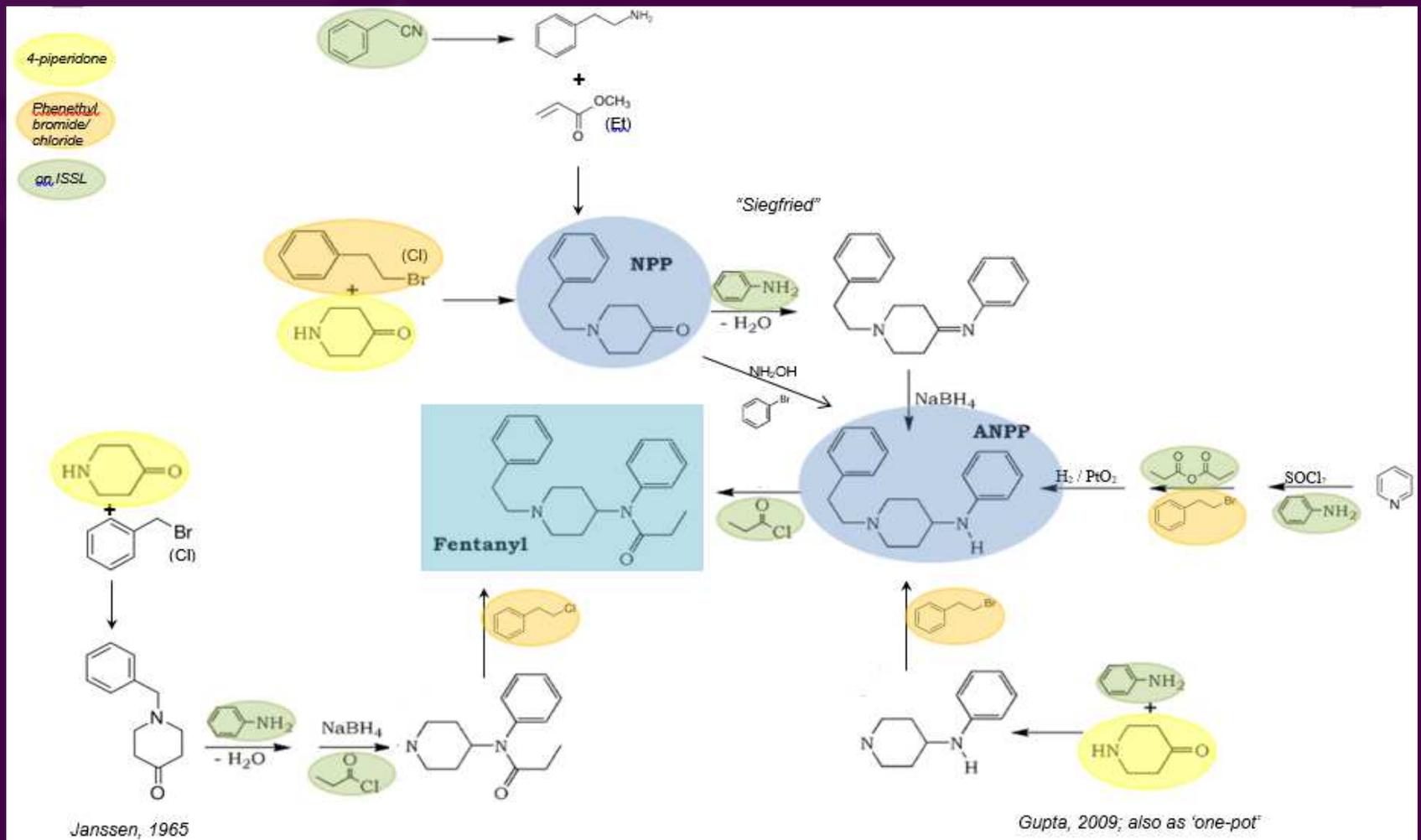
Fentanyl analogues and their precursors



# Future: Substitutes or analogues ??

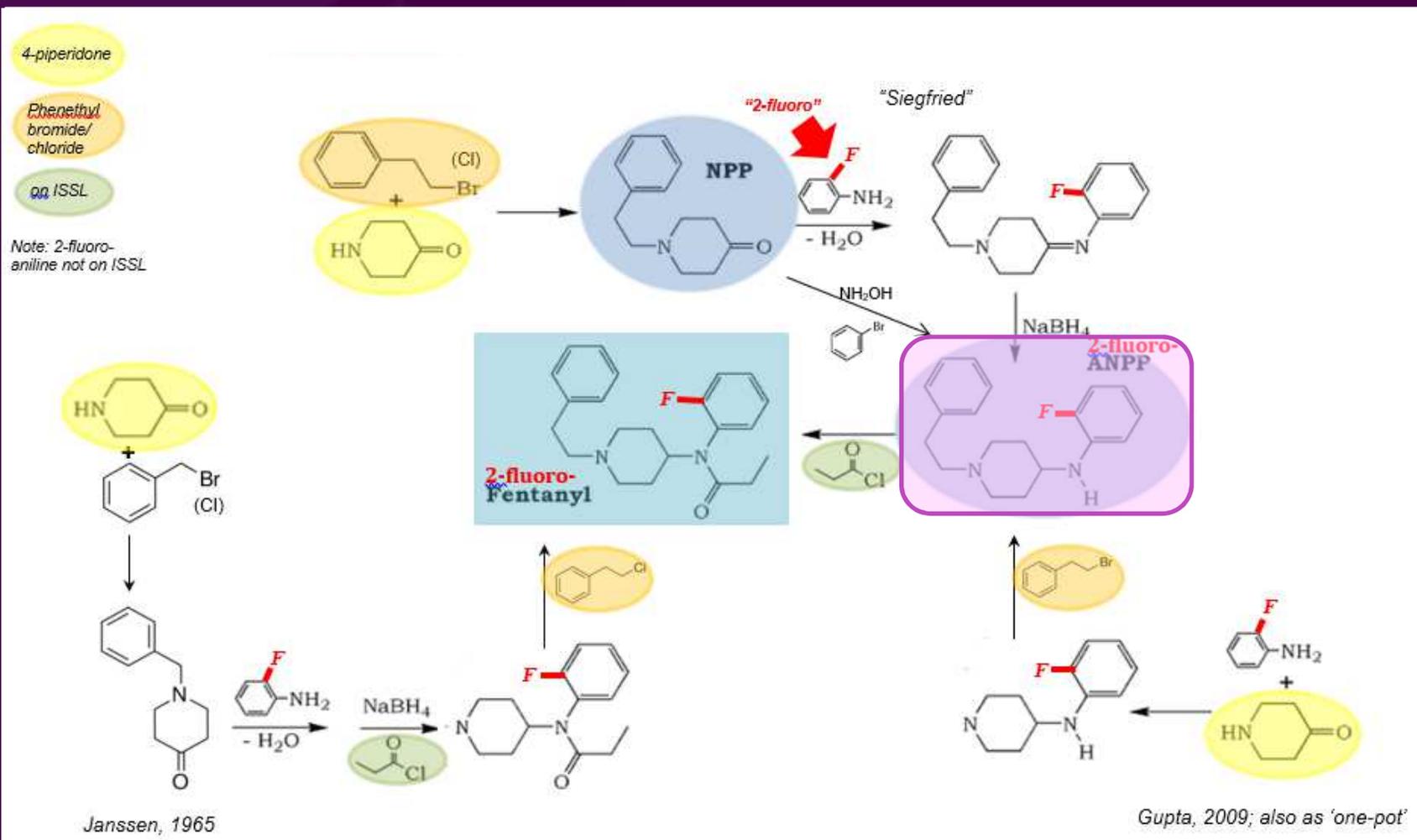
A) Precursors of NPP and ANPP (substitutes, alternates; same end-products)

B) Analogues of NPP and ANPP and their precursors (i.e., using the same manufacturing methods but resulting in fentanyl analogues)



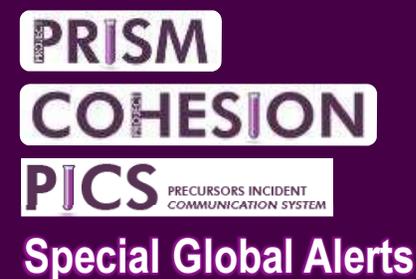
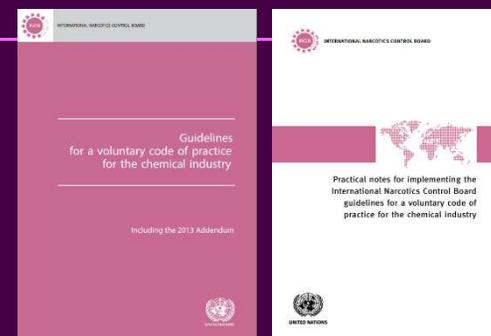
# Future: Substitutes or analogues ??

- A) Precursors of NPP and ANPP (substitutes, alternates; same end-products)
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# Responses to NPS precursors (‘non-scheduled substances’)

- (International) scheduling: priority substances
- Voluntary cooperation with ‘industry’
  - Made-to-order substances; extended (generic) definitions
  - Systematic reporting of cases of suspicion, denied requests and orders → prevent elsewhere; corporate responsibility
- Exchange of, and follow-up on, *actionable* information
  - Real-time, systematic sharing of information → build up cases, → prevent future cases using similar MO (& generate evidence for scheduling)
  - Informing the authorities of transit and destination countries of known outbound shipments → action on incoming shipments
- New / proactive / innovative approaches
  - Extended (generic) definitions, incl. ‘immediate precursors’
  - Reversal of burden of proof





# International Narcotics Control Board

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Thank you  
for your attention

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