



**Ben Westhoff**

***Author, *Fentanyl, Inc.: How Rogue Chemists Are Creating the Deadliest Wave of the Opioid Epidemic****

Ben Westhoff is an award-winning investigative journalist whose books are taught around the country and have been translated into languages all over the world. His new book *Fentanyl, Inc.: How Rogue Chemists Are Creating the Deadliest Wave of the Opioid Epidemic* (September 3, 2019, Grove Atlantic) focuses on fentanyl, which now kills more Americans annually than any drug in history and is one of a crop of new chemicals called novel psychoactive substances (NPS).

To understand the crisis, Westhoff traveled the world meeting with users, scientists, law enforcement, and dealers and distributors at every step of the supply chain. In China he infiltrated a pair of drug operations making and selling fentanyls and NPS for export, and in the process uncovered how China encourages this illicit trade through subsidies and tax breaks. Westhoff's work has also appeared in the Library of Congress, *The Guardian*, *The Wall Street Journal*, NPR, *Rolling Stone*, and *Vice*.

### **Questions for the Panelist**

- How are Chinese companies integrated into global pharmaceutical and medicine supply chains and what are the implications for U.S. public health regulators and businesses?
- What factors have contributed to China's emergence as a global hub of illicit and counterfeit medicines and pharmaceuticals?
- Is the Chinese government actively addressing concerns about the export of illicit fentanyl and other narcotic substances to the United States? If so, how? Are these steps sufficient for stemming illicit narcotic flows?
- What governmental cooperation between the United States and China exists on public health issues? What are the successes and challenges of cooperation?
- What risks, if any, does greater U.S.-China health cooperation pose for U.S. economic and national security interests?