

“This is a great day.  
The merits of a  
rigorous scientific  
trial have finally  
trumped politics.”

—University of Arizona  
researcher Dr. Sue Sisley,  
*The Los Angeles Times*,  
March 14, 2014



Sue Sisley, M.D.

## U.S. Department of Health and Human Services Approves Study of Marijuana for PTSD, Marking Historic Shift in Federal Policy

On March 14, 2014, the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services granted permission for MAPS to purchase research-grade marijuana from the National Institute on Drug Abuse (NIDA) for our planned study of marijuana for symptoms of posttraumatic stress disorder (PTSD) in 70 U.S. veterans.

MAPS has been working for over 22 years to start marijuana drug development research, and this is the first time we have been granted permission to purchase marijuana from NIDA, the sole provider of marijuana for federally regulated research in the United States.

The study was approved by the U.S. Food and Drug Administration on April 28, 2011, and by the University of Arizona Institutional Review Board on October 25, 2012.

The PHS review process exists only for marijuana, and not for research into any other Schedule I drug. Researchers and veterans' advocacy organizations are now calling on the Obama administration to eliminate the redundant PHS review process, clearing obstacles for other research on the marijuana plant as a potential prescription medicine.

“When it comes to researching the medical potential of Schedule I drugs, privately funded medical marijuana drug development research has been the last domino to fall. We are working to expand the options doctors have to treat their patients, but we need the support of our federal agencies.”

—MAPS Founder Rick Doblin, Ph.D.

### About the study

**Goal:** Explore the safety and effectiveness of smoked or vaporized marijuana for symptoms of PTSD

**Subjects:** 70 U.S. military veterans with chronic, treatment-resistant PTSD

**Method:** Double-blind, placebo-controlled

**Investigator:** Dr. Sue Sisley

**Location:** University of Arizona, Phoenix, AZ

### In the Media



The New York Times

Los Angeles Times

ArmyTimes



nature



The Washington Post

San Francisco Chronicle

HIGH TIMES