Rick Doblin, Ph.D., Founder and Executive Director, earned his Ph.D. in Public Policy from the Kennedy School of Government at Harvard University. Doblin was also in Stan and Christina Grof's first training group to receive certification as a Holotropic Breathwork practitioner.

Brad Burge, Director of Communications and Marketing, earned his B.A. in Communication and Psychology from Stanford University in 2005 and his M.A. in Communication from the University of California, San Diego in 2009. His graduate work focused on the political, scientific, and cultural changes required to make illicit drugs into legitimate medicines.

Virginia Wright, Director of Development, prior to joining MAPS in 2011, Virginia was a marketing and fundraising consultant, and held management positions at the Santa Cruz Symphony, KUSP Radio, Arts Council Silicon Valley, and The Global Fund for Women. She earned her B.A. from San Francisco State University, and M.B.A. from Santa Clara University.

Irina Alexander, AskMAPS Associate, earned a B.A. in Criminology & Criminal Justice with a minor in Black Women’s Studies from the University of Maryland. Prior to getting involved with MAPS, she was Chair of Students for Sensible Drug Policy’s Board of Directors and Chief of Staff for the Criminal Justice Policy Foundation.

Brian Brown, Communications and Marketing Manager, studied medical anthropology and visual culture at the University of California, Santa Cruz where he researched social prospects for psychedelics using a community centered approach. Brian is now developing MAPS’ membership base by assisting with education and outreach efforts.

Erik Brown, Development Associate, earned his B.A. in English Literature from the University of Wisconsin Madison, where he also received awards for his poetry and research. His research combined art criticism, psychoanalysis, and disability studies. Erik comes to MAPS from serving in AmeriCorps VISTA and working as a grant writer in Texas.

Merete Christiansen, Office Assistant, received her BS in Biology at the State University of New York at Geneseo, where she developed her passion for community service and activism. She furthered these interests working with High Trails Outdoor Science School following her undergraduate studies. Merete is passionate about learning, reading, yoga, and the dissemination of information.

Natalie Lyla Ginsberg, Research and Advocacy Coordinator, earned her Master’s in Social Work from Columbia University in 2014, and her Bachelor’s in History from Yale University in 2011. At Columbia, Natalie served as a Policy Fellow at the Drug Policy Alliance, where she helped legalize medical marijuana in her home state of New York, and worked to end New York’s racist marijuana arrests. At MAPS, Natalie advocates for unbiased research.

Tess Goodwin, Development Assistant, has a B.A. in Psychology from the University of California, Santa Cruz, where she focused most of her time on social psychology and newspaper production. She is a mycophile, artist, and language enthusiast.

Sarah Jordan, Publications Associate, earned her B.A. in Environmental Policy with a minor in Journalism from the University of California at Santa Cruz. Prior to joining MAPS, she was Communications and Development Assistant at Firelight Foundation in Santa Cruz, CA.

Bryce Montgomery, Web and Multimedia Manager, studied film production at West Valley College, joining MAPS as Social Media Intern in the summer of 2011. Bryce now serves as Web and Multimedia Manager, bringing his background in film production and social media to public education about psychedelics.

Shannon Clare Pettit, Executive Assistant, is a Marriage and Family Therapist Intern and received her Master’s in Integral Counseling Psychology from the California Institute of Integral Studies. Her clinical work has been with individuals and groups, of all ages, experiencing trauma, addiction, depression, and dual diagnosis. Shannon supports Founder and Executive Director Rick Doblin, and contributes to MAPS’ harm reduction efforts.

Berra Yazar-Klosinski, Ph.D., Clinical Research Scientist, earned her Ph.D. in Molecular Cell, and Developmental Biology from University of California Santa Cruz, where she also served as president of the Graduate Student Association. After attending Stanford University, she worked as a Research Associate with Genentech Corporation and Millennium Pharmaceuticals.
Founded in 1986, the Multidisciplinary Association for Psychedelic Studies (MAPS) is a 501(c)(3) non-profit research and educational organization that develops medical, legal, and cultural contexts for people to benefit from the careful uses of psychedelics and marijuana.

MAPS furthers its mission by:
- Developing psychedelics and marijuana into prescription medicines.
- Training therapists and working to establish a network of treatment centers.
- Supporting scientific research into spirituality, creativity, and neuroscience.
- Educating the public honestly about the risks and benefits of psychedelics and marijuana.

MAPS envisions a world where psychedelics and marijuana are safely and legally available for beneficial uses, and where research is governed by rigorous scientific evaluation of their risks and benefits.

MAPS relies on the generosity of individual donors to achieve our mission. Now that research into the beneficial potential of psychedelics is again being conducted under federal guidelines, the challenge has become one of funding. No funding is currently available for this research from pharmaceutical companies or major foundations. That means that the future of psychedelic and marijuana research is in the hands of individual donors. Please consider making a donation today.

maps.org/donate