

ARUPA:

The Association for Responsible Use of Psycho-actives

This message is of particular importance to therapists familiar with the use of MDMA (a.k.a. ADAM or XTC).

Since its inception, the AHP has gathered together a wide variety of people who share a common vision of the essential worthiness of the multi-disciplinary, multi-faceted inquiry into our human potential. The AHP has served as a great crossroads where the synthesis of divergent insights, techniques and research priorities have enriched all who have participated in this growing body of knowledge and wisdom. The UNESCO charter states: "Since wars begin in the minds of men, it is in the minds of men that the defenses of peace must be constructed." It is in this spirit that many of us have pursued research both into the range of human potential and the roots of human destructiveness. Many of the psychoactive materials access unconscious processes. The political criminalization of most psychoactive materials via the Controlled Substances Act, and the withdrawal of Food and Drug Administration (FDA) approval of clinical research involving psychoactive materials, have made it impossible for clinical researchers to obtain reliable clinical data concerning their therapeutic value.

For the past ten years, research and therapeutic sessions have quietly been proceeding with a legal, unscheduled material from the phenethylamine-family, MDMA. This work has never been discussed or reported on publicly, despite a growing therapeutic usage by physicians in family therapy, suicidal depression, drug abuse, the terminally ill, and individual therapy. A small group of priests, ministers, rabbis and contemplatives have also been involved in the investigation of MDMA-assisted meditation. On July 27, 1984 the Drug Enforcement Administration (DEA) moved to place MDMA in Schedule I, thereby criminalizing all current therapeutic research and usage and making FDA approval necessary for the reestablishment of the various projects currently underway. This action is occurring even though, in the opinion of the Department of Health and Human Services, there is no current evidence of significant harm or abuse.

The Drug Enforcement Administration is requesting comments, due August 27, 1984, on their proposed scheduling of MDMA. Last week, senior administrators at the DEA stated they had no prior knowledge of the involvement of the therapeutic community with MDMA, and that they would be very interested in learning about this therapeutic usage of it. If there is significant information that they were unaware of, they will call a

hearing on the scheduling of MDMA. This hearing may prevent the scheduling of MDMA altogether, or at least serve to educate the DEA and FDA to the significant approaches to human healing currently in progress that could be pursued. The FDA is also interested in learning about therapeutic usage of MDMA and may be willing to grant permission to a few research groups. (The World Health Organization is also meeting, in April of 1985, to discuss whether MDMA should be scheduled internationally.) We have prepared a questionnaire that we hope you will fill out. This questionnaire will be analysed Sunday after this conference is over and hand-carried to the DEA in Washington D.C. on Monday, the 27th of August.

If you wish to sign your names to the questionnaire, we will place your names on ARUPA's mailing list and answer any further questions you may have. These names will be confidential, submitted neither to the FDA nor DEA. Individual letters are particularly helpful. If you wish to write a signed letter commenting directly on the statements contained in the attached DEA Federal Register notice, we will hand carry it to Washington D.C. on August 27. Address letters to:

Administrator
Drug Enforcement Administration
[no US postal address necessary]

Please return the questionnaire and letters to the ARUPA box in room H119 before Saturday at 6pm.

Empathically,

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A non-profit foundation has been set up to fund research into the therapeutic usage of MDMA and other psychoactive materials, advise the DEA, fund legal costs and, we hope, delay the scheduling of MDMA. At least \$50,000 must be spent on animal toxicity studies before the FDA will permit research with human subjects. All contributions are welcome and tax deductible. The foundation is:

Earth Metabolic Design Labs
2105 Robinson Avenue
Sarasota, Florida 33582