

Donors can make restricted gifts to the project of their choice, or simply make donations to the *general fund*.

Supporting the Swiss collaborative neurotoxicity study can be accomplished for \$10,000. MAPS has offered to try and raise \$400 for each of the 25 subjects, who all will be receiving two spinal taps. NIDA is paying U.S. subjects \$400 for one spinal tap and three days of other tests. It seemed considerate to offer something to the Swiss subjects, who are conducting this specific study more for our benefit than theirs. The Swiss doctors have volunteered their time collecting the spinal fluid and Dr. Ricaurte has offered to cover costs of conducting the analysis of spinal fluid out of his current laboratory budget.

The seminar in Moscow can be fully supported for \$10,000. The three physicians and myself who will attend will receive no remuneration, and incur estimated travel costs of \$2,500 each. This project is important both as a small citizen-sponsored bridge between two nations very cautiously allowing the cold war to thaw and as a method of furthering the possibilities for legal MDMA research in the USSR and the United States. There would be nothing quite like an MDMA gap to motivate U.S. officials to permit MDMA research. What better sort of competition could there be than on healing technologies?

In the United States, one additional control group would be very helpful in Dr. Ricaurte's neurotoxicity study at Johns Hopkins. In addition to testing a group of MDMA users who had tried MDMA over 20 times, another group of subjects who had only used MDMA 2-7 times would help determine whether users of small amounts of MDMA were significantly different from frequent users of MDMA, or from non-drug users or non-MDMA drug users. This additional control group would ideally have 24 subjects, just like the other groups. Estimated expenses of \$435 and a \$400 fee suggest that a total of about \$20,000 is needed to bring this extra control group into being. Dr. Ricaurte could cover the cost of lab fees and experimenters' time from out of current budgets.

### **Progress- No More Animal Studies**

It is important to note that no future donations will be used for animal studies. Some people have felt uncomfortable giving funds to MAPS to support animal studies, preferring human studies. I have previously thought that additional animal studies were essential to secure FDA permission, and now think that enough animal data either has been gathered, or is currently underway. I have recently made contact with several animal rights groups including the Humane Society, the Anti-Vivisection League, and People for the Ethical Treatment of Animals, and have asked their help in lobbying the FDA for permission to move into human studies.

### **Looking Ahead**

Legal MDMA psychotherapy research is possible. We can work to heal the national trauma of drug abuse and drug wars by listening to the concerns of the drug abuse officials, learning their language, conducting research and seeking mutually acceptable solutions. MAPS will continue to develop scientific data for decisionmakers.

Another MAPS report will come out in the early fall outlining the progress made and the state of affairs. Once school starts again I will be rather quiet until Christmas vacation, sending out a short report around the New Year.