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# Multidisciplinary Association for Psychedelic Studies, Inc.

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August 1991 – Brief Summer Overview by Rick Doblin, MAPS President

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**T**he FDA has definitely approved Drs. Al Kurland, Richard Yensen and Donna Dryer's research protocol for the investigation of the use of LSD-assisted psychotherapy in the treatment of substance abusers. Their next steps are to obtain Institutional Review Board approval and then to seek funding.

Drs. Charlie Grob and Gary Bravo, both of the U. of California Irvine, and I are developing a protocol for the investigation of MDMA-assisted psychotherapy in the treatment of physical and emotional pain in terminal cancer patients. We're currently seeking expert consultants to assist with the design of the experiment. Submission of the completed protocol to the FDA is several months off.

Over the past four months I have been exploring the possibility of serving my two-year Presidential Management Internship (PMI) award within the FDA office that regulates the medical use of MDMA, LSD, marijuana, and other Schedule I drugs. Though a job offer was not forthcoming (I was told hiring me would be like letting the camel into the tent), I was able to meet at length with several key FDA officials. Relationships of mutual respect are developing which will make my MAPS work more effective. As a result, I've withdrawn from the PMI program and will focus on MAPS.

In mid-August *The Journal of Transpersonal Psychology* will publish my paper on the follow-up to Walter Pahnke's Good Friday experiment into psychedelics and mystical experiences. A previous draft of the paper was sent to all MAPS members several months ago. On July 1, *The Journal of Clinical Oncology* published my paper on the medical use of marijuana. *The Economist* featured my research in an article dated July 6th (reprinted on page four of this newsletter). *The New Republic* printed an article on medical marijuana in its July 15-22 issue which I highly recommend. Also recommended is the July issue of *Gentleman's Quarterly*, which contains a fascinating article about the use of psychedelic substances by people involved in Silicon Valley's computer industry.

The June 1991 issue of *High Times* has a very well written article discussing the February, 1991 conference on psychedelics held at Stanford. MAPS was described as "advocating a strategy of reconciliation with the authorities, based on the assumption that accumulation of scientific evidence favoring the benefits of psychedelics would eventually change the government's position." This was contrasted with the position of Timothy Leary, summarized as "Fuck the government."