

ketamine: Russia

MAPS received a \$2,000 grant to support the research of Dr. Evgeny Krupitsky, a Russian scientist who uses ketamine in the treatment of alcoholics and neurotics. Since Dr. Krupitsky already has published scientific papers describing his positive results (which have been discussed in past issues of the MAPS newsletter), the next step in the scientific process is for other researchers to try to replicate his findings. Therefore, MAPS is sponsoring a visit to the United States by Dr. Krupitsky in late January and early February, 1995. Dr. Krupitsky will visit Albuquerque, New Mexico in order to work with Dr. Rick Strassman, who is actively researching DMT and psilocybin. He will also visit Los Angeles to meet with Dr. Charles Grob, who is conducting MDMA research. Another stop will be Baltimore to meet with Richard Yensen, Ph.D. and Dr. Donna Dryer, who are planning to study the use of LSD in the treatment of substance abuse. While in Baltimore, MAPS will also try to arrange for Dr. Krupitsky to visit with officials at NIDA's Medications Development Division, which is investigating the use of ibogaine in the treatment of cocaine and heroin addiction. Dr. Krupitsky will also visit Miami to meet with Dr. Sanchez-Ramos and Deborah Mash, Ph.D., who are conducting the first safety studies with ibogaine. Finally, Dr. Krupitsky will visit Tampa to meet Dr. Eli Kolp, a psychiatrist who immigrated to the US from Russia and is interested in investigating ketamine in the treatment of alcoholism. If any MAPS readers would be interested in meeting Dr. Krupitsky during his travels, please let the MAPS office know and we will try to make the necessary arrangements. ■

ibogaine: Miami

Dr. Juan Sanchez-Ramos and Deborah Mash, Ph.D. have completed the first portion of their Phase 1 study of the physiological and psychological effects of ibogaine in human volunteers. They have administered very low doses of ibogaine to a small number of subjects and have submitted their data to the FDA for review. They expect to be permitted to continue their experiment using higher doses in another small group of subjects. ■

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psilocybin: New Mexico

Dr. Rick Strassman of the University of New Mexico at Albuquerque has now begun his Phase 1 study of the physiological and psychological effects of psilocybin in human volunteers. These experiments are being conducted with a standard dose-response design. Dr. Strassman is also continuing with his studies of DMT. The next issue of the MAPS Bulletin will contain a report by Dr. Strassman on these studies. ■

NATIONAL MEDICAL MARIJUANA DAY

NOVEMBER 15, 1994 was National Medical Marijuana Day. The Cannabis Action Network (CAN) organized about 100 local educational and cultural events, and NORML organized a special press conference at the National Press Club in Washington, DC. These events were designed to bring this issue to the attention of the American public.

At the press conference, patients from around the country joined with physicians and activists to explain this issue to the media, and through the media to the American public. Though an extraordinarily persuasive group of speakers appeared at the National Press Club, there was unfortunately very little press attention.

The main lesson MAPS learned from this disappointment is that the strategy of trying to force politicians to accept the medical use of marijuana through testimonials alone is not likely to succeed. While the tragic spectacle of having a patient get arrested and tried for the medical use of marijuana can get media attention, and change public opinion to some extent, government policy against the medical use of marijuana is deep-seated. It is for this reason that MAPS continues to pursue a complementary strategy based on FDA-approved scientific research aimed at making marijuana into a prescription medicine. ■
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NEW BOOK AVAILABLE!

THANATOS TO EROS

MYRON STOLAROFF was early convinced of the value of psychedelic substances, and devoted his career to studying them. This book is a detailed account of his own personal experiences. It is a journey from the grip of Thanatos, the drive for death that effectively defeats enjoyment of life, to Eros, the drive for life that brings ultimate fulfillment. Order your copy of *Thanatos to Eros* now from Thaneros Press @\$17.95 per copy (add \$3.00 per copy S&H, CA residents add \$1.39 sales tax for each book). Thaneros Press, PO BOX 773 (M), Lone Pine CA 93545. The next issue of the MAPS Bulletin contains the Foreword to this book by Sasha and Ann Shulgin. ♦