

**Hello from Carla Higdon –
MAPS' new staff member**

(we hope, permanently)

SOME OF YOU who have received memos or talked with me on the phone may be wondering who I am. Actually, I have been involved with MAPS for two years on both a volunteer and part-time basis. Now, I am here for a trial period of six months to promote new memberships and to provide administrative support for all of you members who are already with us. So, if you have MAPS related questions, direct them to me and I will do my best to provide you with answers, though I am still in the process of getting acquainted with things.

MAPS' growing membership and an increasing number of projects have mandated some organizational restructuring around here, so we are all wearing different hats these days. Rick is working at home and Sylvia and I are in a new office. This is an experiment and, in order for things to continue in this way, we need to increase membership by approximately one thousand. If we succeed, my position will become permanent and you will be seeing more of me.

I am truly delighted to be at MAPS and have the opportunity to contribute to the advancement of medical marijuana and psychedelic research. The systematic banning of psychedelics in the United States and around the world is, in my opinion, one of the great shortcomings of modern culture. How much more arduous is the quest for our divine origins without legal access to these tools that allow us a window of opportunity to glimpse our own perfection. In my own experience, psychedelics have been a source of wonder, wisdom, and growth, a sacred gift to take along on the long journey of life. •



**National Institute of Mental Health
researcher studies co-administration
of antidepressants and entheogens**

*Bonson KR, Buckholtz JW, Murphy DL
(1995). CHRONIC ADMINISTRATION OF SEROTON-
ERGIC ANTIDEPRESSANTS ATTENUATES THE
SUBJECTIVE EFFECTS OF LSD IN HUMANS.
Neuropsychopharmacology 14(6):425-436.*

FOR THOSE WHO DON'T have easy access to a medical library, the bottom line of this paper, and a companion one in another journal, was this:

In people who had taken an SSRI or an MAOI for 3 weeks or more, there was a reduction or an abolishment of their response to LSD. In contrast, people who had been taking a tricyclic antidepressant or lithium for 3 weeks or more had a potentiated response to LSD, usually to an unpleasant degree. Actually, there were some reports of what happens once people had gone off their antidepressant and then took LSD—the change in response to LSD returned to normal after a couple of weeks off the medication. In addition, there was one person who reported on the effects of Prozac (fluoxetine) after only one week's administration and then taking LSD—there was a potentiation of the response (in a good way).

Personal accounts requested

Although I am no longer collecting data on the interactions of classic antidepressants and LSD (since these papers are published), I am still collecting data on the interactions of antidepressants with other entheogenic substances, particularly psilocybin and MDMA. I am also trying to work up an appropriate interview for documenting the combined use of LSD and MDMA ("candyflipping"). If any MAPS reader either has personal information on these topics, or has a friend with information, I would be very happy to send along a questionnaire (by E-mail or by postal service). All information is kept confidential and you can use a pseudonym as long as I have a reliable way to contact you. •

Thanks—Kit Bonson, Ph.D., NIMH
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