

The two clients who participated in LSD therapy are (still) satisfied with the treatment by Bastiaans, who always worked with one or more of his co-therapists.

The subject is rather delicate in the Netherlands for reasons that are clear to most readers of this *Bulletin*. Nevertheless, the study is supported by ICODO (National Information and Coordination Services for war survivors), Centrum '45 (a national center for medical and psychological treatment of survivors of World War II and members of the Resistance), PAN (Psycho-Active Network) and—among others—medical psychologist Dr. Van der Ploeg (Free University, Amsterdam) who in the 1980s worked with Bastiaans. The scientific committee for the study consists of historian Dr. Schuyf (researcher, ICODO), clinical psychologist Dr. Kleber (Director, Institute for Psychotrauma) and therapist Mr. Reerds (Treatment Manager, Centrum '45). The relevance of this research lies in the implications it has for future therapeutic use of hallucinogens in indications such as post traumatic stress disorder. Finally, it possesses an evident historical dimension.

A final report will appear when the study is completed in Spring 1999. •

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Ketamine Psychedelic Therapy

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So far, our research team has treated 68 heroin addicts as part of a three-year study of ketamine psychotherapy (KPT). This study is being funded by MAPS and the Heffter Research Institute.

In June 1998, I presented a paper at the International Satellite Meeting "Building International Research on Drug Abuse" held in Scottsdale, Arizona. This meeting was organized by the National Institute on Drug Abuse (NIDA) in conjunction with the 60th Annual Meeting of the College on Problems of Drug Dependence (CPDD), the major conference in the U.S. (and in the world) focused on the problems of drug addiction.

The presentation raised a lot of interest among participants and even among some NIDA officials who noted that KPT could be a useful approach to the treatment of heroin addiction, particularly in those countries where methadone maintenance is not available. In spite of the fact that the mainstream psychiatric paradigm dominated at the NIDA/CPDD Meeting, there were many researchers there who felt positive about the perspectives of psychedelic psychotherapy in the field of addiction. In particular, I had a very interesting and productive discussion with Dr. Kenneth Alper of the Neuropsychiatry Center of New York University School of Medicine and with Dr. John Halpern of the Alcohol and Drug Abuse Research Center of Harvard Medical School. I hope that we will be able to do collaborative research with ketamine as a result of our discussions in Arizona.

I would like to express my deepest gratitude to MAPS which covered my hotel expenses in Scottsdale and to NIDA which covered my travel expenses from St. Petersburg to Arizona. Without their support I would not be able to attend the NIDA/CPDD Meeting because of the very poor economic situation in Russia, particularly in the area of medical science, which is almost out of Federal funding at the moment. •

MDMA Research Updates

*Serotonin and dopamine system interactions
in the reinforcing properties of psychostimulants*

Wayne State University School of Medicine

Principal Investigator: Manuel E. Tancer, M.D.

This study began in September 1998 (see *MAPS Bulletin* Vol. VII No. 3, Summer 1997). A low dose (75 mg) of MDMA has been administered to subjects as part of the dose-finding phase.

MDMA Pharmacokinetics Study at UC San Francisco

Principal Investigator: John Mendelson, M.D.

The MDMA administration phase of this study has been completed. Data analysis is underway. •