

maps announcements & updates

Need help with last patients

The historic study of the Short Term Effects of Cannabinoids in HIV Infection is looking for the final 15 participants to complete the trial.

The goal is to finish enrollment in early 2000, hopefully by February, according to Donald I. Abrams, M.D., Principal Investigator and Professor of Clinical Medicine at the University of California San Francisco. The NIDA funded trial is investigating the interaction of cannabinoids – smoked or oral – with HIV protease inhibitor drugs.

Subjects must be HIV positive with a stable viral load on a protease inhibitor containing antiviral regimen. They must have smoked marijuana in the past, but CANNOT have smoked within 30 days prior to enrollment. Subjects spend 25 days in the inpatient General Clinical Research Center at San Francisco General Hospital. They are randomly assigned after the first four days to either smoked marijuana, Marinol or Marinol placebo. The study agent is administered three times daily before meals for the next 21 days. Two outpatient follow-up visits are also scheduled. Participants receive \$1000 for completing the trial.

Of the 64 participants needed to complete the trial, 46 have been enrolled. The study is particularly seeking individuals who are taking indinavir (Crixivan) as their protease

inhibitor. Women are also being actively sought. Participants cannot be smoking cigarettes, using methadone or any other Schedule 1 drugs.

If you know of someone who may be eligible and would like more information, please contact the study coordinator at 415-502-5705 for more information.

New FDA-approved psilocybin research needs donations

The first FDA-approved study in more than 20 years to examine the use of psilocybin in a patient population is close to being initiated. The principal investigators, Dr. Pedro Delgado and Dr. Francisco Moreno, University of Arizona, plan to study the use of psilocybin in 10 patients suffering from obsessive-compulsive disorder (OCD). They want to determine if they can replicate in a clinical study several published case reports of patients whose OCD symptoms were reduced after self-experimentation with psilocybin mushrooms.

The researchers still need financial support for hospital and laboratory costs and for an approved supply of psilocybin. These costs amount to \$30,000. MAPS is assisting the researchers to raise \$30,000 for their study. If you would like to make a tax-deductible contribution to this historic study or would like more information, please contact MAPS.

Ayahasca: Amazonian Shamanism, Science, and Spirituality

March 17-19, 2000 • San Francisco

This will be the first-ever conference devoted solely to ayahuasca, the visionary plant brew widely used by indigenous shamans in South America for healing and divination. Many groups and individuals from Western countries have participated in ayahuasca ceremonies in the Amazon, often in conjunction with projects for the preservation of rainforest ecosystems and indigenous cultures. The conference project director is Ralph Metzner, Ph.D., psychologist and editor of *Ayahasca: Hallucinogens, Consciousness and the Spirit of Nature* (Thunders Mouth Press, 1999), a collection of scientific papers and experiential accounts.

Presenters:

- J.C. Callaway, Ph.D.
- José Campos
- Charles Grob, M.D.
- Kathleen Harrison
- Luis Eduardo Luna, Ph.D.
- Dennis McKenna, Ph.D.
- Ralph Metzner, Ph.D.
- Jeremy Narby, Ph.D.
- Jonathan Ott
- Alex Polari de Alverga

Panels Include:

- Women and Ayahuasca
- Medico-Scientific Research on Ayahuasca
- Amazonian Cultural Context of Ayahuasca

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For information on registering for this event, call 415.575.6290 or e-mail: kathyg@ciis.edu