

## MAPS Clinical Research Team Explores **New Research Sites** in France and Spain—And Speaks in Ibiza



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As MAPS' flagship MDMA/PTSD study in Charleston, South Carolina draws to a close with promising results, MAPS clinical research monitoring team has been busy scouting out potential new sites where we hope to replicate our results.

In June we traveled to Lyon, France and Barcelona, Spain to explore new possibilities for future research.

We frugally combined this with another trip to Ibiza, where I was invited to speak at the Club Health 2008 conference, with all expenses paid by conference organizers from John Moore University in Liverpool, England.

I opened as a keynote panelist at the conference and spoke about MAPS' revolutionary grassroots work applying psychedelic therapy techniques to those people who are having difficult psychedelic experiences at festivals. It was fun and productive to network with a slightly different, though allied, set of people and organizations at this harm reduction event—and it significantly cut MAPS' travel expenses, since the conference paid for my trip across the Atlantic (as well as room and board in an Ibiza resort for a few days).

After departing from Ibiza, we arrived in Lyon, France, where we met with French psychiatrist Dr. Fred Rosenfeld, M.D. Rosenfeld and his colleague Olivier Chambon, M.D., are interested in conducting an MDMA/PTSD study with MAPS. They are currently in the very early stages of negotiating the maze of bureaucratic and political approval before they can even submit a formal protocol,

but our meeting set the next steps in motion and hopefully inspired collaboration in this process.

In Lyon, we boarded the train and traveled down the coast to Barcelona, Spain, where we took a few days off and were graciously shown around the city by psychedelic documentarian Ben de Loenan.

(De Loenan directed and produced the *Ibogaine* documentary which is for sale in the MAPS online store.) We returned to work by heading to the Hospital de San Pau, a prestigious and historic hospital in the heart of Barcelona, blocks from Gaudi's famous *Sagrada Familia*.

The head of the clinical research unit—along with researchers Jose Carlos Bouso, Ph.D. and Jordi Riba M.D.—warmly welcomed us to their impressive inpatient research center. They presented us with a detailed slide show showcasing their broad research capabilities and experience. MAPS' first MDMA/PTSD study started in Madrid, Spain in 2000, under the direction of Bouso. Unfortunately, this study was shut down in 2002 as a result of pressure from the

Madrid Anti-Drug Authority. Bouso said he has been patiently waiting for the right opportunity to resume his research, and he has now found the place to do it. MAPS is eager to renew MDMA/PTSD research in Spain, both as a symbol that we've overcome the political suppression of scientific research, and also because we need to treat more subjects in Phase II clinical trials.

It has been a long summer vacation, and with any luck we will be back to Barcelona and Lyon soon—next time to initiate these promising studies.

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