

Heffter Research Institute Update



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THE HEFFTER psilocybin research programs continue to make exciting progress. All subjects in the Harbor-UCLA cancer-anxiety study, directed by Heffter Board member Charles Grob, M.D., have been treated. The study is now in the follow-up phase for the last subjects. The next step is to analyze the data and publish the results.

One of the subjects, and the husband of another, were recently featured on "The Morning Show With Mike and Juliet" on the Fox television network. The online version of the show is mislabeled, but should still be available online at: www.mandjshow.com/videos/lsd-the-cure. This favorable treatment on Fox daytime TV is a big step in turning public opinion toward seeing psychedelics as medicine rather than something to fear, which can help turn around public policy.

In our other ongoing project utilizing psilocybin for cancer-related anxiety, the Johns Hopkins team has begun treating their patients, but finding it slow to recruit subjects. MAPS members can help by referring anyone who might benefit from the treatment, plus anyone working in the field of cancer treatment and palliative care. Information can be found at www.canceranxiety.org or www.cancerdepression.org, which both link to their study Web site at www.bpru.org/cancer. This study is open to almost anyone with cancer, even if they are not terminally ill.

At the Heffter Research Center in Zürich, Dr. Franz Vollenweider's team has been honored with the funding of an Albert Hofmann Fellowship program by a Swiss philanthropist working with the family of Dr. Hofmann, after his passing at age 102 this past April. We are

thankful to Rick Doblin for his support in obtaining this fellowship.

At the end of the year, the current study of serotonin receptor activation by psilocybin in Zürich should be complete, and then the study of patients with obsessive-compulsive disorder will begin. This is an exciting direction because we hope it not only will help the patients with their symptoms, but show us how psilocybin is working in that healing process, which could lead to many other medical applications.

Ultimately, hundreds of subjects will need to be treated before the FDA actually approves psilocybin for medical use.

The results of our current studies should be sufficient for the FDA to advise us on the additional research required for that approval. These studies are also designed to demonstrate enough efficacy to allow investigators to receive grants from the

National Institutes of Health to fund the additional studies required for approval.

Our approach involves both the development of practical medical treatments and an understanding of the effects of psychedelics on human consciousness, with an eye toward demonstrating their distinctive significance to both the public and the scientific/medical establishment. We believe psychedelic research is essential to discovering a more comprehensive, scientifically based understanding of who we are, which is critical to our creating a sustainable culture on this planet.

MAPS members can consult our web site at www.heffter.org for the extensive list of published research projects supported by the Heffter Research Institute.



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Research
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