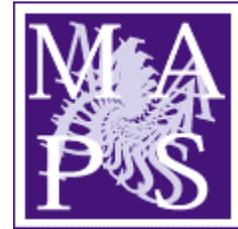


MAPS

The Multidisciplinary Association for Psychedelic Studies



NEWS ADVISORY

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CONTACT: Katya Kruglak 703-304-5075, katya@mintwood.com
Randolph Hencken 831-336-4325, Randolph@maps.org

Promising Results from Pioneering MDMA (Ecstasy)-Assisted Psychotherapy Pilot Study of Subjects with Treatment-Resistant Posttraumatic Stress Disorder (PTSD) *Clinical Study in Sexual Assault Survivors and Iraq War Veterans.*

CHICAGO—Dr. Michael Mithoefer, the Principal Investigator for the non-profit Multidisciplinary Association for Psychedelic Studies (MAPS)-sponsored study of MDMA-assisted psychotherapy in 21 subjects with treatment-resistant PTSD, will present a poster of his promising findings at the **International Society for Traumatic Stress Studies Conference in Chicago on Thursday, November 13, 2008**, Dr. Mithoefer's poster presentation is from 5-6 PM in the **Palmer House Hilton Hotel located at 17 East Monroe St., Chicago, IL**. Dr. Mithoefer and MAPS President Rick Doblin, Ph.D. will be available for further questions after 6 PM.

Mithoefer's groundbreaking \$1 million study is the world's first government-sanctioned research ever completed evaluating MDMA as an adjunct to talk therapy. The study took place at a private facility in Charleston, South Carolina over the past four years. Dr. Mithoefer and his wife, Annie Mithoefer BSN, are a co-therapist team. Symptom measures were administered by blinded, independent rater Mark Wagner, Ph.D. Subjects participated in non-drug psychotherapy sessions before and after receiving two or three day-long sessions with either MDMA or placebo. Most of the subjects were sexual assault survivors, and two were veterans of the U.S. Iraq War. **The findings of statistically significant reductions in PTSD along with evidence demonstrating the safety of MDMA-assisted psychotherapy** are especially remarkable because subjects failed to obtain relief from both pharmacotherapy and psychotherapy prior to being enrolled in the study.

Anecdotal reports that MDMA could be a useful therapeutic tool date to before 1985 when MDMA was classified as a Schedule 1 drug without accepted medical use. Mithoefer's study, which took MAPS 22 years of struggle to obtain approval for and complete, demonstrates that there is a scientific basis to these anecdotal reports and that research into the therapeutic value of MDMA is a worthy endeavor. This study suggests that MDMA-assisted psychotherapy might make a major contribution to the treatment of US veterans with PTSD, potentially reducing substantial suffering while saving the Veterans Administration billions in PTSD disability payments.

Millions of people in the U.S. are affected with PTSD; the reductions in symptoms in this study of MDMA-assisted psychotherapy were greater than in studies of medicines currently available. Instead of just suppressing symptoms of PTSD, MDMA-assisted psychotherapy can, in some cases, effectively cure PTSD.

The International Society for Traumatic Stress Studies (www.istss.org) is the largest organization in the world for researchers and therapists working with PTSD patients.

The Multidisciplinary Association for Psychedelic Studies (www.maps.org) is a membership-based, non-profit research and educational organization founded in 1986 with a mission to sponsor scientific research designed to develop psychedelics and marijuana into FDA-approved prescription medicines, and to educate the public honestly about the risks and benefits of these drugs.

WHO: Dr. Michael Mithoefer, Principal Investigator, MDMA-assisted psychotherapy for subjects with treatment-resistant PTSD, and Rick Doblin, Ph.D. MAPS President

WHAT: Poster Presentation of Phase II clinical trials with human subjects with PTSD

WHEN: Thursday, November 13, 2008, 5-6 PM

WHERE: Palmer House Hilton Hotel located at 17 East Monroe St., Chicago, IL.

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