

Our April 15-18, 2010, **Psychedelic Science in the 21st Century** conference and the July 19, 2010, publication of our MDMA-assisted psychotherapy research in the **Journal of Psychopharmacology** attracted the attention of hundreds of news organizations from around the world.

naturenews
Published online 18 April 2010 | Nature | doi:10.1038/news.2010.188

Party drug could ease trauma long term

Pilot studies demonstrate effectiveness of MDMA for post-traumatic stress disorder.

Lizzo Butler

Ecstasy, a drug that is illegal in most countries, is showing increasing potential as a treatment for post-traumatic stress disorder (PTSD), according to clinical-trial results presented at a conference in San Jose, California, today. The effect seems to continue for years after the initial treatment.

People can develop PTSD after traumatic experiences such as sexual abuse, or witnessing extreme acts of violence. Patients are plagued by flashbacks and nightmares, and often become emotionally numb and easily frightened. Treatment includes cognitive behavioural therapy and selective serotonin reuptake inhibitors (SSRIs) such as paroxetine (Paxil) and sertraline (Zoloft), but many people with PTSD do not respond to these treatments.

Ecstasy, otherwise known as 3,4-methylenedioxymethamphetamine, causes the release of

The New York Times
Science

Hallucinogens Have Doctors Tuning In Again

By JOHN TURNEY
Published: April 11, 2010

As a retired clinical psychologist, Clark Martin was well acquainted with traditional treatments for depression, but his own case seemed unresponsive to other grating regimens for kidney cancer. Connecting seemed futile to him. So did the antidepressant pills he tried.

Nothing had any lasting effect until, at the age of 65, he had his first psychedelic experience. He left his home in Vancouver, Wash., to take part in an experiment at Johns Hopkins medical school involving psilocybin, the psychoactive ingredient in certain mushrooms.

Scientists are taking a new look at hallucinogens, which taboo among regulators after enthusiasts like Timothy Leary promoted them in the 1960s with the slogan "Turn on, drop out." Now, using rigorous protocols and safeguards, scientists have won permission to study once again the

CNN
PSYCHEDELIC MEDICINE

Psychedelic drugs for your health?

CNN's Campbell Brown talks to Dr. Sandy Duple and Dr. Stephen Ross about psychedelics in use for medical purposes.

Amanda Feilding
Posted: April 22, 2010 02:32 PM

Amanda Feilding's Talk at the Psychedelic Science in the 21st Century Conference in San Jose

Neuroscience, Psychedelics, The Beckley Foundation

It's good to be here today, with so many colleagues, on the 47th anniversary of the Bay Area Hoffman revolution experiment for LSD, which bonded the thousand ships on which we were all.

I set up the Beckley Foundation in 1968 for the purpose of scientifically studying consciousness and its altered states.

Covering up is an inherent but magical quality on the edge of a search in England. I engaged several childhood mystical experiences from which I developed a passionate interest in medicine, the Bible and Buddhism. After my first fascination by the scientific question: what is physical?

BBC NEWS HEALTH

Ecstasy 'may help trauma victims'

Ecstasy may help boost therapy sessions in patients with post-traumatic stress disorder, say US researchers.

A small trial of 20 patients suggests one of the drugs is safe and may increase the effects of psychotherapy.

The US team has now gained approval for a larger study in military soldiers, but stress more research is needed to confirm the finding.

A US report said it was difficult to draw any conclusions from such a small study and urged caution.

It is thought the rubbing drug reduces fear enabling patients to get more out of their therapy sessions.

In the trial, patients were offered two eight-hour psychotherapy sessions a week for a few weeks apart, with 10 of them given a dose of ecstasy and eight a placebo.

Two months later, 10 of the 12 patients given ecstasy responded to the treatment, the researchers said.

In contrast, just five out of eight patients offered a placebo showed an improvement.

There were no adverse effects from the use of the drug in the study, which was funded by the Multidisciplinary Association for Psychedelic Studies (MAPS).

MAPS is a non-profit group that organizes and supplies the drug.

SCIENTIFIC AMERICAN

Can the Peace Drug Help Clean Up the War Mess?

At a conference last weekend, researchers reported positive results on the effectiveness of MDMA in relieving PTSD and talked about psilocybin in reducing stress in late-stage cancer patients.

By Brian Weisberg | April 20, 2010 | 10:26

SAN JOSE, California—Michael Bledsoe's story begins like that of many other Iraq war veterans. In 2007, he was chasing insurgents through Anbar province when a roadside bomb exploded, breaking Bledsoe's back and both his feet. A former Army Ranger working as a security contractor, Bledsoe soon knew his high-paying military career was over.

Back home, Bledsoe (not his real name) felt angry almost constantly. Nightmares haunted him. He withdrew and became isolated. "It was a serious sense of loss," he says. His psychiatrist quickly diagnosed **post-traumatic stress disorder (PTSD)**.

my FOX

Hallucinogens Tested to Help Treat Cancer Patients

Researchers believe the effects of hallucinogens to further investigate the effects of hallucinogens to further investigate the effects of hallucinogens.

SUSA TODAY

Psychedelic drugs aid anxiety treatments in cancer patients

A study taking place in New York is giving doctors of psilocybin, the active ingredient in what are commonly called "magic mushrooms," to cancer patients to try to help their anxiety.

NEW YORK (AP) — The top white pill one brought to her in an ambulance didn't already have hands with her hair, she thought and she pressed her wrist for what it could help her do.

She swallowed it, by the look on the doctor's face was concerned, and water. And then it came.

The event was made up of awe and it was in a "coma," she recalled. Surrounded by brilliant, compassionate doctors. We saw the same open up to admit "the most incredible experience that made everything seem more beautiful."

There's no other story for her as she sits "the most beautiful of the world made reality."

There was Holly Sutton, 67, began her 10-hour wait in a psychiatric drug lab.

NewScientist
SPACE TECH ENVIRONMENT HEALTH LIFE PHYSICSBRAIN SCIENCE IN SOCIETY

Short Sharp Science

Cutting-edge science, not just

Ecstasy may help trauma victims

10:34 19 July 2010

Amos Prosser, contributor

MDMA, the drug commonly known as a disorder (PTSD) when used in ongoing trials in the *Journal of Psychopharmacology*.

The finding, if replicated, will be faster therapeutic benefits to patients when

MDMA was used as a therapy drug for evidence for its effectiveness. In what is expected to be the first trial ever with it.

To better understand potential benefits researchers are giving patients in South Dakota to 20 patients with PTSD, who responded to conventional drugs.

Subjects were given two eight-hour sessions which they were administered MDMA and volunteers also took part in weekly group sessions.

The volunteers were tested for anxiety two months later. Out of 12 participants in one condition - no longer having eye contact with the two of the eight participants.

Moreover says the results are very early the results need to be reproduced.

Military.com TODAY IN THE MILITARY

Study: Ecstasy Treats PTSD

July 16, 2010

Presented at the 10th Annual Meeting of the Society for Military Psychology, the study found that MDMA, the drug commonly known as a disorder (PTSD) when used in ongoing trials in the *Journal of Psychopharmacology*.

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CBS NEWS HEALTHNEWS

Ecstasy Helps Treat PTSD Patients, Trial Finds

People suffering from the signs of post-traumatic stress disorder (PTSD) may see the drug's benefits.

2010 People suffering from the signs of post-traumatic stress disorder (PTSD) may see the drug's benefits.

A small trial that found that 10 patients of participants treated with a combination of MDMA and psychotherapy were more likely to respond to the drug, which is used to treat PTSD, than those who received a placebo.

These results were announced at the 10th Annual Meeting of the Society for Military Psychology, which was held in San Antonio, Texas.

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TIME SEARCH TIME.COM

Ecstasy Shows Promise in Relieving PTSD

The drug, known as MDMA, is being tested in a clinical trial.

Ecstasy has always been an unusual drug of abuse. In conventional use, it's euphoric, and often an aphrodisiac. But the latest research shows it can be used to help people with PTSD.

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PsychCentral

MDMA May Have Role in Treatment of PTSD

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WebMD Better Information. Better Health.

Ecstasy May Ease PTSD Symptoms

Designer Drug Ecstasy Combined With Therapy Successfully Treats Posttraumatic Stress Disorder, Study Says (continued)

Safety Matters

The drug appeared safe in the new study. That said, the jury is still out on the risks of MDMA.

The research is aimed at establishing the risk/benefit ratio, which appears

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