

MAPS: Who We Are



Rick Doblin, Ph.D., Founder and Executive Director, earned his Ph.D. in Public Policy from the Kennedy School of Government at Harvard University. Doblin was also in Stan and Christina Grof's first training group to receive certification as a Holotropic Breathwork practitioner.



Michael Mithoefer, M.D., Clinical Investigator/Medical Monitor, is a psychiatrist practicing in Charleston, SC, where he divides his time between clinical research and outpatient clinical practice specializing in treating posttraumatic stress disorder (PTSD) with an emphasis on experiential methods of psychotherapy. He is a certified Holotropic Breathwork Facilitator and trained in EMDR and Internal Family Systems Therapy.



Annie Mithoefer, B.S.N., MDMA/PTSD Study Co-Investigator, is a Registered Nurse who lives in Charleston, SC where she divides her time between clinical research and outpatient clinical practice specializing in treating posttraumatic stress disorder (PTSD) with an emphasis on experiential methods of psychotherapy. She is a certified Grof Holotropic Breathwork Practitioner and is trained in Hakomi Therapy.



Brad Burge, Director of Communications and Marketing, earned his B.A. in Communication and Psychology from Stanford University in 2005 and his M.A. in Communication from the University of California, San Diego in 2009. His graduate work focused on the political, scientific, and cultural changes required to make illicit drugs into legitimate medicines..



Amy Emerson, Director of Clinical Research, earned her B.S. in genetics and cell biology from Washington State University. She has worked in clinical development and research for the last 15 years in the fields of immunology, oncology, and in vaccine development. Amy has worked with MAPS since 2003 facilitating the development of the MDMA clinical program.



Virginia Wright, Director of Development Prior to joining MAPS in 2011, Virginia was a marketing and fundraising consultant, and held management level positions at the Santa Cruz Symphony, KUSP Radio, The Global Fund for Women, and Soviet American Performing Arts Exchange. She earned her B.A. in International Relations from San Francisco State University, and her M.B.A. from Santa Clara University.



Brian Brown, Communications and Marketing Associate, studied medical anthropology and visual culture at the University of California, Santa Cruz where he researched social prospects for psychedelics using a community centered approach. Brian is now developing MAPS' membership base by assisting with education and outreach efforts.



Founded in 1986, the Multidisciplinary Association for Psychedelic Studies (MAPS) is a **501(c)(3) non-profit** research and educational organization that develops medical, legal, and cultural contexts for people to benefit from the careful uses of psychedelics and marijuana.

MAPS furthers its mission by:

- Developing psychedelics and marijuana into prescription medicines.
- Training therapists and working to establish a network of treatment centers.
- Supporting scientific research into spirituality, creativity, and neuroscience.
- Educating the public honestly about the risks and benefits of psychedelics and marijuana.

MAPS envisions a world where psychedelics and marijuana are safely and legally available for beneficial uses, and where research is governed by rigorous scientific evaluation of their risks and benefits.

MAPS relies on the generosity of individual donors to achieve our mission. Now that research into the beneficial potential of psychedelics is again being conducted under federal guidelines, the challenge has become one of funding. No funding is currently available for this research from governments, pharmaceutical companies, or major foundations. That means that the future of psychedelic and marijuana research is in the hands of individual donors. Please consider making a donation today.

maps.org/donate



Merete Christiansen, Office Assistant, received her BS in Biology at the State University of New York at Geneseo, where she developed her passion for community service and activism. She furthered these interests working with High Trails Outdoor Science School following her undergraduate studies. Merete is passionate about learning, reading, yoga, and the dissemination of information.



Natalie Lyla Ginsberg, Research and Advocacy Coordinator, earned her Master's in Social Work from Columbia University in 2014, and her Bachelor's in History from Yale University in 2011. At Columbia, Natalie served as a Policy Fellow at the Drug Policy Alliance, where she helped legalize medical marijuana in her home state of New York, and worked to end New York's racist marijuana arrests. At MAPS, Natalie advocates for unbiased research.



Tess Goodwin, Development Assistant, has a B.A. in Psychology from the University of California, Santa Cruz, where she focused most of her time on social psychology and newspaper production. She is a mycophile, artist, and language enthusiast.



Colin Hennigan, Clinical Data Coordinator, brings a background in research design methodology and database management to MAPS. He earned his B.A. in Political Science at the University of Chicago, and his M.A. in Political Science at University of California, Davis. He is currently working on the creation of MAPS' online clinical database and the implementation of the Therapist Adherence Program.



Ilsa Jerome, Ph.D., Research and Information Specialist, earned a Ph.D. in psychology from the University of Maryland. She helps design studies, gathers information on study drugs by keeping abreast of current literature and discussion with other researchers, manages documents related to MAPS-supported studies, and supports the MAPS psychedelic literature bibliography.



Sarah Jordan, Publications Associate, earned her B.A. in Environmental Policy with a minor in Journalism from the University of California at Santa Cruz. Prior to joining MAPS, she was Communications and Development Assistant at Firelight Foundation in Santa Cruz, CA.



Bryce Montgomery, Web and Multimedia Associate, studied film production at West Valley College, joining MAPS as Social Media Intern in the summer of 2011. Bryce now serves as Multimedia Associate, bringing his background in film production and social media to public education about psychedelics.



Shannon Clare Pettitt, Executive Assistant, is a Marriage and Family Therapist Intern and received her Master's in Integral Counseling Psychology from the California Institute of Integral Studies. Her clinical work has been with individuals and groups, of all ages, experiencing trauma, addiction, depression, and dual-diagnosis. Shannon supports Founder and Executive Director Rick Doblin, and contributes to MAPS' harm reduction efforts.



Linnae Ponté, Director of Harm Reduction, earned her BA in Biological Psychology from New College of Florida. She's assisted data collection and analysis at University of South Florida's Cardiovascular Psychophysiology Laboratory, MOTE Marine Mammal Aquarium Psychophysical Laboratory, East-West College of Natural Medicine, and the West Mamprusi Civic Union in Ghana.



Ben Shechet, Clinical Research Associate, received his BA in Psychology from Princeton University, where his work included research on motor learning in children, investigation of flow state phenomena, and a thesis that developed a neuroeconomic framework for understanding the phenomenon of boredom. Prior to joining MAPS, he worked as a Clinical Research Coordinator at a private clinical trials site, investigating potential treatments for Alzheimer's Disease.



Allison Wilens, Clinical Study Assistant, earned her B.S. in Biopsychology in 2014 from Tufts University. She worked in the Tufts Psychopharmacology Lab, and was also co-president of the Tufts chapter of Students for Sensible Drug Policy (SSDP), where she helped to pass medical amnesty reform on campus and spread awareness of the harmful side effects of the War on Drugs.



Berra Yazar-Klosinski, Ph.D., Clinical Research Scientist, earned her Ph.D. in Molecular, Cell, and Developmental Biology from University of California Santa Cruz, where she also served as president of the Graduate Student Association. After attending Stanford University, she worked as a Research Associate with Geron Corporation and Millennium Pharmaceuticals.