

# MAPS in the Media

## THE WALL STREET JOURNAL.

### How MDMA Went From Club Drug to ‘Breakthrough Therapy’

by Josh Dean on October 18, 2017. *Wall Street Journal Magazine* publishes a detailed review of MAPS’ ongoing clinical research into MDMA-assisted psychotherapy’s effectiveness at treating PTSD and trauma. The magazine covers results from Phase 2 clinical trials, upcoming Phase 3 studies, the FDA’s recent decision to grant MDMA a Breakthrough Therapy Designation, and MAPS Public Benefit Corporation which will regenerate revenue for ongoing psychedelic and marijuana research once MDMA-assisted psychotherapy is a legal prescription medicine. Josh Dean speaks with MAPS Founder Rick Doblin, Ph.D., about the timeline for legalization which he predicts should be approved by 2021. “By that time, he will have spent 35 years and \$60 million in donations on the legalization effort,” explains Dean.

*“Doblin predicts that there will someday be thousands of these clinics, offering not just MDMA but also other psychedelics that were formerly banned substances.”*



### MDMA Advances Another Step As Tool to Treat PTSD

by Richard Karel on October 20, 2017. *The American Psychiatric Association* covers the Food and Drug Administration (FDA)’s recent decision to grant MDMA as a potential Breakthrough Therapy. The article highlights MDMA as a therapeutic tool in combination with psychotherapy showing great promise in treating PTSD through MAPS’ ongoing clinical trials. Richard Karel of the American Psychiatric Association speaks with MAPS-sponsored MDMA researcher Charles Grob, M.D., about upcoming Phase 3 clinical trials of MDMA-assisted psychotherapy and the recent news receiving Breakthrough Therapy Designation. Grob says, it is “quite an accomplishment,” and that “it speeds up the timeline.” Karel explains that “3,4-methylenedioxymethamphetamine (MDMA) holds promise to once again become a therapeutic tool.”



*“The complex history and abuse of MDMA suggests additional thought be given to the evaluation of its clinical efficacy,” says former American Psychiatric Association President Paul Summergrad, M.D.*

## The Washington Post

### Ecstasy Could Be ‘Breakthrough’ Therapy for Soldiers, Others Suffering from PTSD

by William Wan on August 26, 2017. The front page of *The Washington Post* features a special report on the FDA’s decision to grant Breakthrough Therapy Designation for MDMA-assisted psychotherapy for PTSD, highlighting how the experimental treatment is “emerging as the most promising tool to come along in years for the military’s escalating PTSD epidemic.”

“If you’re a combat veteran with multiple tours of duty, the chance of a good response to these drugs is 1 in 3, maybe lower,” said John Krystal, chairman of psychiatry at Yale University and a director at the VA’s National Center for PTSD. “That’s why there’s so much frustration and interest in finding something that works better.”



*Jonathan Lubecky, a Marine Corps and Army veteran, returned from a deployment to Iraq with severe PTSD. His participation in MAPS’ study of MDMA proved life-saving. (Travis Dove/For The Washington Post)*

## The Boston Globe

### Lucy in the Sky with Doctors

by Livia Gershon on October 14, 2017. *The Boston Globe* explores the role of psychedelics and marijuana in medicine, science, and politics in contemporary times. “During the long national backlash to figures such as Timothy Leary, Americans may have been skeptical of efforts to cast psychedelic drugs in cosmic terms. But as the marijuana debate shows, attitude shifts that barely seemed possible can sometimes become inevitable,” explains Livia Gershon of *The Boston Globe*.

## nature medicine

### Mission Control: Drug Developers Test the ‘Benefit Corporation’ Business Model

by Arran Froom on October 17, 2017. *Nature Medicine* takes a close look at how various drug development organizations are creating public benefit corporations instead of traditional for-profit business models. The article highlights MAPS as a leading example of a non-profit organization creating a public benefit corporation to advance a strategic mission. The MAPS Public Benefit Corporation (MPBC) was founded in January 2015 to manage prescription sales of MDMA, a taxable activity not possible with MAPS’ 501(c)(3) designation. MPBC is a wholly owned subsidiary of MAPS. Income collected from prescription sales of MDMA will help to fund MAPS’ ongoing psychedelic research and educational projects.

## MilitaryTimes

### FDA Designates MDMA As ‘Breakthrough Therapy’ For Post-Traumatic Stress

by Janet Burns on August 28, 2017. *Forbes* reports on the U.S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA) granting Breakthrough Therapy Designation to MDMA as an adjunct to psychotherapy for the treatment of posttraumatic stress disorder (PTSD). “MAPS, which has been championing and fundraising for MDMA research for roughly 30 years, explained in a press release that the FDA’s granting of a Breakthrough Therapy Designation indicates the agency ‘has agreed that this treatment may have a meaningful advantage and greater compliance over available medications for PTSD.’ It also designates the agency’s intent to help develop and review the treatment faster than other candidate therapies,” explains Janet Burns of *Forbes*.

## Forbes

### Floatin’ in Ecstasy: Veterans Suffering from PTSD May Soon Find Help from an Unlikely Source

by Jon Simkins on August 31, 2017. *Military Times* speaks to MAPS Executive Manager Merete Christiansen about MAPS’ clinical trials of MDMA-assisted psychotherapy for PTSD being granted Breakthrough Therapy Designation. “Now that we’ve been granted this prestigious designation and have come to an agreement with the FDA about study designs, our biggest hurdle is fundraising,” explains Christiansen. “We still need to raise half of the \$25 million needed to fund the studies ... If everything remains on track, we anticipate full FDA approval in 2021.”



### FDA Labels MDMA a ‘Breakthrough Therapy’ for PTSD

by Nate Church on August 29, 2017. *Breitbart* covers MAPS’ recent news about the U.S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA) granting Breakthrough Therapy Designation (BTD) to MDMA for the treatment of posttraumatic stress disorder (PTSD). “The roughly eight million sufferers of Post Traumatic Stress Disorder (PTSD) may have new hope, in the form of 3,4-methylenedioxy-methamphetamine or MDMA,” says Nate Church of *Breitbart*.



### The War on Drugs Is Holding Science Back

by Naomi Burke-Shyne on August 4, 2017. *Open Society Foundations* examines bureaucratic barriers surrounding MDMA, LSD, and cannabis research. The article covers an upcoming study researching MDMA-assisted psychotherapy as a potential treatment for alcoholism. “By labeling MDMA, among other substances, as Schedule 1, governments have created a huge barrier to scientific research, depriving the world of possible breakthroughs in health and knowledge,” explains Naomi Burke-Shyne of *Open Society Foundations*. “National governments could reclassify substances such as MDMA, cannabis, and LSD to less restrictive schedules, which would put them under more feasible regulatory control and open up options for scientific research—while still being in compliance with the abovementioned conventions.”