

MAPS in the Media

THE WALL STREET JOURNAL

Silicon Valley and Wall Street Elites Pour Money Into Psychedelic Research

Shalini Ramachandran • August 20, 2020

The Wall Street Journal reports on the successful completion of the Capstone Challenge, a fundraising effort to complete Phase 3 clinical trials of MDMA-assisted psychotherapy for PTSD. The article highlights multiple \$1M+ donations and the support of the Psychedelic Science Funders Collaborative (PSFC) and author Tim Ferriss, illustrating the rapid mainstreaming of psychedelic research and fundraising. “Psychedelic research has been thought of as ‘fringe’ for a long time. But there’s nothing ‘fringe’ about PTSD,” says Bob Parsons, the MAPS donor who founded GoDaddy and PXG. “There are millions of people with PTSD in the U.S. alone, and that includes veterans like me, first responders like those on the front lines of the Covid-19 pandemic, and survivors of sexual assault and domestic abuse. All of them deserve better, significantly more effective treatment options than we give them today.”

LA WEEKLY

DEA Finally Announce Rules to Expand Supply of Research Weed

Jim Devine • April 7, 2020

LA Weekly reports on the Drug Enforcement Administration’s (DEA) announcement to release draft rules for the first round of public comments regarding an expansion of the research-grade marijuana supply in the U.S. beyond the University of Mississippi, which has been the only federally approved cannabis for research for over 50 years. While the DEA’s announcement may mark progress, many researchers are cautiously optimistic; there are “more unnecessary delays since DEA could and should issue licenses now,” says MAPS Founder Rick Doblin.

THE TIM FERRISS SHOW

Rick Doblin, Ph.D. — The Psychedelic Domino That Tips All Others

Tim Ferriss • June 11, 2020

Listen to the recent episode of The Tim Ferriss Show with MAPS Founder Rick Doblin, Ph.D., for an insightful conversation about psychedelic science, the final steps involved to make MDMA-assisted psychotherapy into a prescription treatment option for PTSD, and MAPS’ goal to raise \$10 million in donations through the Capstone Challenge.

Forbes

Psychedelic Pioneer Rick Doblin On FDA Trials Of MDMA: Most Important Reality Check Of MAPS’ 34-Year History

David E. Carpenter • May 12, 2020

Forbes reports on the results from MAPS’ interim analysis for the first of two Phase 3 clinical trials of MDMA-assisted psychotherapy for PTSD, a monumental milestone in psychedelic research. “The great results from the interim analysis has changed everything in that we are now actively preparing for FDA approval and commercialization based not on hopes and dreams but on actual data from Phase 3,” explains MAPS Founder Rick Doblin, Ph.D.



Treating PTSD With Psychedelics

Terry Gross • June 22, 2020

“MDMA is just an exquisitely perfect chemical for augmenting the process of psychotherapy,” says Dr. Julie Holland on an episode of NPR’s Fresh Air podcast with host Terry Gross. “MDMA, because it increases oxytocin, there is a quieting of the amygdala — the fear response. Exploring trauma is scary, and often if people become afraid, they close down and they don’t want to talk,” explains Dr. Holland. Listen to the full episode to hear an insightful conversation about the potential for psychedelic therapy, cannabis, and plant medicines to treat the root cause of trauma, promote healing, and facilitate neuroplasticity.

CLINICAL TRIALS ARENA

Long-Term Efficacy Data Shows MDMA Is Effective for Treating PTSD

June 15, 2020

Clinical Trials Arena reports on the long-term follow-up results compiled from six trials of MDMA-assisted psychotherapy for PTSD, which demonstrated continued improvement in most patients for more than one year after the treatment ended. The long-term data shows 67% of participants no longer met diagnostic criteria for PTSD after one year, compared to 56% of participants at the original endpoint of the trials. These results further add to previous data on the potential effectiveness of the treatment and “makes it one of the most promising agents in the pipeline for PTSD,” says Clinical Trials Arena.

MAPS in the Media

The American Journal of Psychiatry

Psychedelics and Psychedelic-Assisted Psychotherapy

Michael Roy • May 1, 2020

American Journal of Psychiatry Audio speaks with Dr. Collin Reiff and Dr. William McDonald about their evidenced-based summary of the literature on clinical psychedelic research for the treatment of mental health conditions. The podcast takes listeners on a journey through the history of psychedelics, the prohibition of psychedelic research in the 1960s, the current shift in mainstream perspective of psychedelics, MAPS-sponsored psychedelic-assisted therapy research, plus conclusions that researchers and mental health professionals may benefit from in their careers.

reason

A Formerly Secret Memo Explains the DEA's Long Delay in Approving New Producers of Marijuana for Research

Jacob Sullum • April 30, 2020

Reason reports on a new memo released by the Drug Enforcement Administration (DEA) as part of a settlement agreement with MAPS-sponsored researcher Sue Sisley, M.D., and her company, Scottsdale Research Institute (SRI). Reason says that the memo “explains why the DEA has been so slow in following through on a 2016 commitment,” which would end the government-created monopoly on research cannabis.

SCIENTIFIC AMERICAN

The Power of Psychedelics

Erica Rex • July 12, 2020

“Treatment with psychedelic drugs represents a paradigm shift in the approach to mental health,” explains author Erica Rex in a Scientific American article where she shares her experience as a participant in a clinical trial of psilocybin for cancer-related depression. From this experience, Rex examines the differences between the therapeutic process in traditional psychotherapy versus psychedelic therapy and explores the potential for psychedelic-assisted therapies, including MDMA and psilocybin, to treat a variety of mental health conditions.

60 MINUTES

Revolutionary Drug Trial Using Ecstasy to Treat PTSD and Mental Illness

David E. Carpenter • May 4, 2020

60 Minutes Australia explores therapeutic potential of MDMA-assisted psychotherapy for PTSD. The episode follows the experience of a former participant in a Phase 3 clinical trial and includes an interview with Erik Sienknecht, Psy.D., a MAPS-sponsored therapist working on Phase 3 trials of MDMA-assisted psychotherapy for PTSD. “It is going to change the face of psychiatry,” says Sienknecht.

DAV

PTSD Breakthrough: MDMA Shows Promise Healing Mental Trauma in FDA-Approved Clinical Trials

Matt Saintsing • May 5, 2020

Disabled American Veterans (DAV) reports on the promising results from clinical trials of MDMA-assisted psychotherapy for the treatment of PTSD, stating, “the research has been so promising that the U.S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA) has granted the drug ‘breakthrough’ status.” MAPS Public Benefit Corporation (MAPS PBC) Acting Medical Director Michael Mithoefer, M.D., explains, “It can be very painful to process trauma, whether you have MDMA or not.” MDMA in conjunction with psychotherapy “tends to make processing more possible,” says Dr. Mithoefer.

THE SACRAMENTO BEE

Can Psychedelic Therapy Reduce the Mental Health Impacts of the Coronavirus Pandemic?

Morgan Campbell • April 2, 2020

The Sacramento Bee explores the potential psychedelic-assisted psychotherapy may have in treating mental health conditions resulting from the coronavirus pandemic. “To address the inevitable spike of mental illnesses, we must hasten the approval of new evidence-based medications for depression and PTSD. These include the psychedelic compounds MDMA and psilocybin,” says The Sacramento Bee.