

MAPS in the Media

THE WALL STREET JOURNAL.

New PTSD Treatments Emerge as Cases Rise Among Some Groups

Andrea Petersen • September 21, 2020

The Wall Street Journal reports on the development of cutting-edge PTSD treatments that are on the horizon, including MDMA-assisted psychotherapy, as mental healthcare professionals brace for an increase of PTSD symptoms in the population due to the pandemic, especially frontline workers and young adults. Contrasting limitations with currently approved FDA treatments for PTSD, the article highlights promising results from a 2019 review of six MAPS-sponsored Phase 2 trials of MDMA-assisted psychotherapy for PTSD published in the journal *Psychopharmacology*, in which 54% of participants who received treatment no longer met the criteria for PTSD.

The Washington Post Magazine

Who Will Benefit From Psychedelic Medicine?

Whitney Joiner • September 21, 2020

The Washington Post Magazine explores the call for inclusion and social justice within the burgeoning world of psychedelic medicine, highlighting MAPS' efforts to expand racial equity and access, and announcing the MAPS health equity initiative launching this fall to benefit marginalized peoples. The article features interviews with therapists of color who worked on the MAPS-sponsored study of MDMA-assisted psychotherapy for PTSD with participants of color at the University of Connecticut, and insights from presenters at the Psychedelic Medicine and Cultural Trauma Workshop hosted by MAPS in Kentucky last year. "If you want this [treatment] to be accessible to people of color, you can't use the same strategies that marginalized them in the first place," says Jamilah R. George, M.Div.

Women's Health

Fresh Perspective

Kristin Canning • September 30, 2020

Women's Health magazine speaks with Amy Emerson, CEO of MAPS Public Benefit Corporation (MAPS PBC), to learn about the advantages of combining MDMA with psychotherapy to treat PTSD. Emerson says research shows MDMA can "turn down activity in the amygdala, or the part of the brain that ramps up fear, and turn up activity in the prefrontal cortex, which controls logic," making it a beneficial adjunct to therapy. Additionally, Emerson explains the therapeutic value of memory reconsolidation, or "examining and refiling a traumatic memory, so it no longer feels like a current threat."



The Great Power And Great Responsibility Of Using Psychedelic Medicine

Kaia Findlay and Anita Rao • September 10, 2020

Host Anita Rao of NPR's Blue Ridge Public Radio speaks with Ismail L. Ali, J.D., MAPS Policy and Advocacy Counsel, about psychedelic medicalization, indigenous plant medicines, and culturally responsible policy reform. "They've often been used in community intergenerationally as rites of passage, or as initiations, or as containers in which various kinds of political, social, personal, healing and community work can be done," explains Ismail L. Ali, J.D., about indigenous plant medicine traditions.

Vox

The Case for Funding Psychedelics to Treat Mental Health

Sigal Samuel • October 9, 2020

"If you want to invest in the mental health of people around the world, making us all more resilient to future crises, what can you do? Believe it or not, your best bet might be to fund drug development for psychedelic-assisted mental health treatments," says Vox in an article exploring a new in-depth philanthropy report by Founders Pledge. The Founders Pledge research team analyzed data from trials of MDMA-assisted psychotherapy for PTSD and psilocybin-assisted therapy for depression, leading their research team to recommend funding psychedelic drug development from the non-profit organizations MAPS and Usona Institute.

QUARTZ

Wall Street Donors Are Racing to Back Psychedelic Therapy

Olivia Goldhill • August 21, 2020

The completion of MAPS' Capstone Challenge continues to spread through the media, highlighting the shift in acceptance of psychedelic therapy. The success of the \$30 million fundraising effort to fund the final research required to seek U.S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA) approval of MDMA-assisted psychotherapy for PTSD represents the growing support for new and innovative mental health treatments. "Should psychedelics be legalized, the drugs will present both a transformative mental health treatment and a major industry," explains Quartz.