This spring, MAPS hosted the Psychedelic Science 2020 Webinar Series, hosted by Bia Labate, Ph.D., where leaders of the psychedelic renaissance discussed the latest advancements in psychedelic research, medicine, therapy, policy, and advocacy, as well as their applications to our lives now and in the near future.

The following highlights from the webinar series are lightly edited for clarity.

**Ketamine Therapy: Current Applications in Mental Health Treatment**

"Ultimately, insurance coverage is intimately tied to FDA approval, so medical insurance doesn't have to cover ketamine treatment for depression until it becomes FDA approved."

— Raquel Bennett, Psy.D.

"It seems like right now more than ever, we are needing this support, collective healing, and thinking about the metaphor of the ketamine experience of going really inward."

— Veronika Gold, M.A., M.F.T.

"Psychedelics and ketamine are not a magic bullet or quick fix—it really is important to manage expectations because it needs to be a treatment tool in the context of a bigger treatment plan."

— Gita Vaid, M.D.

**Psychedelics and the Brain**

"I think there is a massive potential behind induced neuroplasticity; however, so far, this has only been shown in animals and we need to test whether this also holds true for humans."

— Katrin Preller, Ph.D.

**Decriminalizing Psychedelics**

"We are part of an intergenerational struggle to take psychedelics back to their historic place in our communities, reduce criminal penalties, and treat drug use, and psychedelics in particular, in a public health way rather than with a criminal justice approach."

— Sean McAllister, J.D.

"The impact of a person's drug use is much more impacted by the context of the drug itself that the drug is used in, and many drugs perceived as bad have important medical and even perhaps spiritually healing uses when done in a safer context than on the street under prohibition."

— Ismail Lourido Ali, J.D.
"From an evidence-based perspective, decriminalization seems to be one of the most effective ways of reducing drug harms, especially, and perhaps counterintuitively, for drugs with higher risk profiles."

— Natalie Lyla Ginsberg, M.S.W.

Psilocybin Mushrooms in Culture and Consciousness

"Psilocybin makes nicer people and better citizens, reduces criminality, and, I think, benefits society."

— Paul Stamets

Towards Legal Psychedelic Psychotherapy

"We are growing a lot internally to support not only the Phase 3 clinical trials of MDMA-assisted psychotherapy for PTSD, but also other initiatives and other indications because we don’t want this only for PTSD—we want it for further indications, and we’re looking at other drugs that will possibly develop in the future for other indications also."

— Amy Emerson

"Our real goal is mass mental health; it’s not to maximize the amount of money that we make through selling MDMA, and it’s not just to stay within a medical frame."

— Rick Doblin, Ph.D.

Psilocybin Peer Support: Models of Community Care

"The harm reduction approach accepts, for better or for worse, that licit and illicit drug use is part of our world, and chooses to minimize its harmful effects rather than simply ignoring or condemning them."

— Kwasi Adusei, DNP, PMHNP-BC

"If we are going to actualize the benefits of psychedelics on this planet, we need to adequately address the risks."

— Sara Gael, M.A.

"I think one of the most courageous things that we can do in this world is saying, ‘I need help.’"

— Ryan Beauregard

Treating PTSD with MDMA-Assisted Psychotherapy

"MDMA and all psychedelic drugs are very responsive to the set and setting, and we were able to capture this set and setting dependence of MDMA function in our animal studies."

— Gül Dölen, M.D., Ph.D.

"MDMA-assisted psychotherapy manifests itself as a non-directive approach to the patient—you don’t tell a patient what to do, but you guide the patient by just supporting the patient and facilitating the unfolding of whatever experience that is manifesting itself."

— Eric Vermetten, M.D., Ph.D.

We extend gratitude to the webinar speakers for their dedication to psychedelic education, the webinar attendees, and the MAPS volunteers who helped edit the transcripts of the webinar sessions.

We look forward to continuously expanding our online educational offerings, and hope to see you at the next MAPS webinar series!

For updates about upcoming MAPS events, please subscribe to the MAPS Newsletter (maps.org/newsletter) and check the MAPS Event Calendar (maps.org/calendar).