

Canadian MDMA/PTSD Study Poised to Begin

Our Canadian MDMA/PTSD study will be ready to begin once we receive a license to import MDMA into Canada. We are not sure how long this will take—perhaps several more months. The principal investigators, Ingrid Pacey, MD, and Andrew Feldmar, MA, both participated in our MDMA/PTSD training seminar held in Austria in June. We have approval from Health Canada and a Canadian Institutional Review Board (IRB). The protocol and informed consent forms have been finalized. Our clinical monitoring team completed their pre-study visit and are currently preparing the other documents for the study, such as the case report forms, standard operating procedures, and other essential documents.

Our pharmacist in Canada has received an information packet from Health Canada with an application and instructions for a license to import a Schedule I substance. Unfortunately, the process of getting the importation license is taking longer than we had initially anticipated. Our pharmacist will become the first and only person to have a license to import MDMA into Canada for scientific research (or, for that matter, for any other purpose). We are hoping that we will be able to start the study by November 1 and are eager to begin this second North American study of MDMA-assisted psychotherapy for the treatment of PTSD.

We have received our first financial pledge for this study from supporter and Canadian drug harm reduction expert Mark Haden, in the amount of \$800. We are seeking a Canadian nonprofit to partner with us so that Canadian donors can receive tax deductions. We are planning to have a fundraiser in Vancouver, Canada, on Saturday, October 24, where we will reach out to our Canadian supporters. MAPS President Rick Doblin, PhD, will be in Vancouver that weekend to speak at the Canadian Students for Sensible Drug Policy's national convention. If you are interested in attending the fundraiser, please contact Randolph@maps.org or call 831-429-6368 for more information.

MAPS supporters may recognize Ingrid from MAPS' educational *Psychedelic Crisis* video, which can be viewed on the MAPS website. Andrew made national headlines when the US Customs in Vancouver barred him from entering the US for having written about his own LSD use in the 1960s. Andrew was featured in a very funny *Colbert Report* segment, which can also be viewed online at: <http://www.thedailytube.com/video/3768/colbert-nails-a-canadian-terrorist>

MAPS Email Newsletter

Are you signed up to receive the MAPS email newsletter? Getting the monthly newsletter is the best way to stay informed about MAPS projects, activities, and other happenings. Signing up is easy at: www.maps.org

MDMA Projects in Jordan and Israel

MAPS is working with Jordanian psychiatrist Nasser Shuriquie, MD, to determine the best location for an MDMA/PTSD study in Jordan. Although we had originally thought that the research would take place at a Jordanian military hospital, Nasser recently retired from the Jordanian Royal Medical Services and has become the medical director of Jordan's only private psychiatric hospital. Nasser believes that our project may be more effectively conducted in the private hospital. Rick Doblin will be going to Israel and Jordan in August to meet with Nasser, see the psychiatrist hospital, and discuss the possibilities.

In Israel, a new psychiatrist has joined the therapist team. Tali Nachoni, MD, attended MAPS' MDMA/PTSD therapist training seminar in June along with her co-therapist Sergio Marchevsky, MD. Three out of 12 subjects have completed the study.

Swiss LSD Study Generates Positive Media Attention in Der Spiegel

On July 9, 2009, *Der Spiegel*, a respected and popular German news magazine, profiled a MAPS-sponsored clinical trial of LSD-assisted psychotherapy for people with anxiety associated with life-threatening illnesses. The LSD study is designed with an active dose of 200 mcg and an active placebo dose of 20 mcg.

Der Spiegel interviewed the principal investigator of the study, psychiatrist Peter Gasser, MD, and one of the subjects for the story. On July 24, 2009, the article was republished in English on *Spiegel Online* (this article is also archived on the MAPS website: www.maps.org/media). Peter and MAPS are pleased with the positive media coverage of the study. The study is still in the early stages of enrollment and we hope that the article will encourage people to apply to be subjects in the research. It is far too early for preliminary data analysis.

Ibogaine Project Expects to Enroll Final Subjects by End of 2009 or Early 2010

As of August 2009, 17 out of 30 subjects have been enrolled in the MAPS-sponsored observational case study of the long term efficacy of ibogaine-assisted therapy in the treatment of opiate addiction. Principal investigator and PsyD candidate John Harrison has been following patients who have undergone ibogaine therapy with Pangea Biomedics in Playas De Tijuana, Mexico. John expects that all subjects will enroll by the end of the year or by early next year. The study is designed to follow patients for one year after treatment and to administer the Addiction Severity Index (ASI) as well as some other measures related to life changes. This requires John to speak at length with each subject once a month in order to administer the ASI, and to make contact with a relative or close friend of the subject to confirm subjects' subjective reports. John notes that he is still in contact with almost all the patients, which in and of itself is remarkable considering the subject population and circumstances.