

MAPS News

MAPS Announces Appointment of Carl L. Hart, Ph.D., to the Board of Directors

November 3, 2021

The Multidisciplinary Association for Psychedelic Studies (MAPS) is honored to announce the election of **Carl L. Hart, Ph.D.**, to MAPS' Board of Directors, effective as of October 22, 2021.

Dr. Carl Hart, the [Ziff Professor of Psychology](#) and former Chair of the Department of Psychology at Columbia University, is one of the world's preeminent experts on the effects of psychoactive drugs on the human brain, body, and behavior. His decades of work in the field have compelled him to examine how the War on Drugs and its effective propaganda strategy have shaped and reinforced global structural inequities. In addition to serving as one of nine Directors of the Board for MAPS, Dr. Hart has served as a member of the [National Advisory Council of Drug Abuse](#). He is the author of *High Price: A Neuroscientist's Journey of Self-Discovery That Challenges Everything You Know About Drugs and Society* and *Drug Use for Grownups: Chasing Liberty in the Land of Fear*. Dr. Hart is the recipient of the prestigious 2022 [Abraham L. Halpern Humanitarian Award](#), which recognizes extraordinary individuals who champion the advancement of human rights and the improvement of mental health.

"Carl's distinguished career is built on an unwavering commitment to scientific evidence," notes [Rick Doblin, Ph.D.](#), MAPS Founder and Executive Director. "Paired with his audacious dedication to humanizing people who use drugs, Carl challenges the fear-based dogmas of the War on Drugs. His courage is an inspiration to our community — the kind of courage we need to fortify MAPS' bold vision of catalyzing mass mental health and fighting for cognitive liberty."

Dr. Hart adds, "I am thrilled to be able to contribute to MAPS' admirable goal of ensuring people have access to medications such as MDMA." His expertise and knowledge will support MAPS' strategic, principled growth through his tenure. He has been a [frequent speaker at MAPS events](#) and will be a featured speaker at [Psychedelic Science 2023](#), the upcoming MAPS conference taking place June 2023 in Denver, Colorado.



Carl Hart, Ph.D.,
MAPS Board of
Directors

Participant Safety in Psychedelic Therapy

October 13, 2021

We encourage you to read and follow maps.org/safety for detailed information regarding **MAPS' Therapy Code of Ethics** and our practices to create a culture of safety in psychedelic therapy.

You may safely and confidentially direct misconduct reports related to MAPS-sponsored studies, MAPS staff, MAPS PBC staff, or collaborators to MAPS' Compliance Team via email or by calling (844) 627-7722.

All stakeholders at the Multidisciplinary Association for Psychedelic Studies (MAPS) and MAPS Public Benefit Corporation (MAPS PBC) are committed to providing quality and comprehensive training and supervision to support therapy providers in delivering ethical care within MAPS-sponsored study protocols. We recognize that individuals have been harmed by misconduct in therapy, including psychedelic-assisted therapy, and we embrace our obligation to protect participant safety in MAPS-sponsored studies and the safety of others who are associated with our programs.

We take seriously our obligation to ethically and thoroughly review allegations of misconduct related to MAPS-sponsored studies, MAPS staff, MAPS PBC staff, and our collaborators. In service of these commitments, we are examining, carefully developing, and implementing policies and practices to prevent, reasonably detect, and thoroughly respond to allegations of misconduct.

We hope that our work encourages others to adopt similar commitments. We invite you to review the carefully-considered practices outlined at maps.org/safety and adapt them for your communities.

MAPS and Vine Ventures Pioneer Novel Regenerative Funding Structure to Infuse Psychedelic-Assisted Therapy Research and Access With Timely \$70 Million

December 2, 2021



- Revenue share payments will be based on North America sales of MDMA for use in MDMA-assisted therapy, will terminate after eight years, and include a reciprocity payment structure that reduces payments once certain financial milestones are met
- The Regenerative Financing Vine ensures that most MDMA-assisted therapy revenues remain available to fund MAPS' and MAPS PBC's mission-driven priorities; MAPS remains non-profit with 100% ownership of the public benefit corporation
- Funders are endorsing MAPS' mission and pursuit of mass mental health backed by 35 years of innovative leadership, governance, programs, and strategies
- Many funders through the Regenerative Financing Vine are, and will remain, long-term MAPS donors (see highlights)

Research

Science Names MDMA-Assisted Therapy for PTSD a 2021 Scientific Breakthrough of the Year

December 20, 2021

- Prestigious recognition from world's leading outlet for scientific news and peer-reviewed cutting-edge research is a first for psychedelic-assisted therapy
- Award comes 19 years after Science published a later-retracted article falsely claiming that MDMA caused dopaminergic neurotoxicity leading to Parkinson's disease along with an editorial comparing taking MDMA to playing Russian Roulette

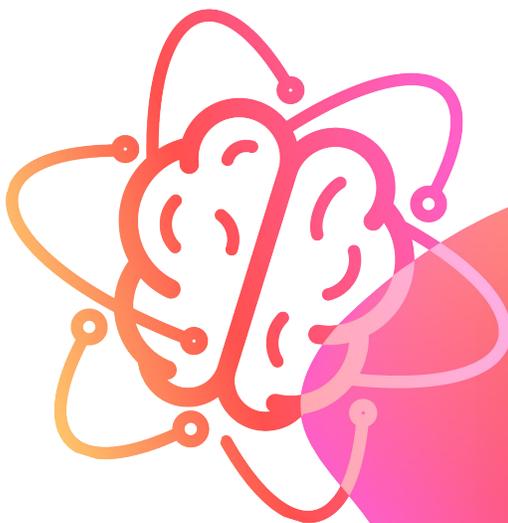


Matters Arising: MAPS' Pivotal Phase 3 Trial Advances Scientific Discourse in Nature Medicine

October 14, 2021

Letters in *Nature Medicine* address important challenges in evaluating psychedelic-assisted therapies

The recent publication of results of the first Phase 3 clinical trial of MDMA-assisted therapy for post-traumatic stress disorder (PTSD) have sparked scientific discourse among clinicians and researchers around the world. Highly statistically significant results and exceptional outcomes for people living with difficult-to-treat conditions for an average of nearly 15 years should be closely examined. In the case of this study, among participants with severe, chronic PTSD who received MDMA-assisted therapy, 88% experienced a clinically-significant reduction in symptoms and 67% no longer qualified for a PTSD diagnosis.



Participate in Research

MAPS sponsors clinical trials around the world that offer volunteers the opportunity to participate in our research studies. Our studies have strict enrollment criteria based on the goal of the study and the condition the study is investigating.

Phase 3 trial participant enrollment is now open for select study sites: mdmaptsd.org.

Please visit our Participate in Research page and check it frequently for updates about participant enrollment: maps.org/participate-in-research.

The safety and efficacy of MDMA-assisted therapy is currently under investigation. This treatment has not yet been approved by the FDA, does not work for everyone, and carries risks even in therapeutic settings. To learn more, please visit mdmaptsd.org.

“Science doesn’t happen in a vacuum,” shares [Jennifer Mitchell, Ph.D.](#), lead author of the first Phase 3 publication. “It is only through working together that we can enable the field of psychedelic medicine to move forward with accuracy and precision, and so we are delighted to find so many voices joining this conversation.” Since the inception of clinical trials of MDMA-assisted therapy for PTSD in 2000, rigorous scientific inquiry and emerging science have been essential to continual improvements in the research sponsored by the [Multidisciplinary Association for Psychedelic Studies \(MAPS\)](#) and conducted by [MAPS Public Benefit Corporation \(MAPS PBC\)](#).

This week, Nature Medicine published two critiques alongside a [response letter](#) from researchers [Jennifer Mitchell, Ph.D.](#), [Allison Coker, Ph.D.](#), and [Berra Yazar-Klosinski, Ph.D.](#), all of whom served as authors of the peer-reviewed journal article reporting on the results.



Allison Coker, Ph.D.
Regulatory Affairs
Manager of MAPS
PBC



Berra Yazar-Klosinski, Ph.D.
Chief Scientific Officer
of MAPS PBC



Jennifer Mitchell,
Ph.D.

MAPS to Receive \$1.5 Million to Evaluate Collaboration with Wesana Health in TBI Treatment

September 14, 2021

The [Multidisciplinary Association for Psychedelic Studies \(MAPS\)](#) and its wholly owned drug-development subsidiary [MAPS Public Benefit Corporation \(MAPS PBC\)](#) have entered into a Memorandum of Understanding with [Wesana Health, Inc.](#), a publicly traded, data-driven life sciences company. Wesana will provide an initial \$1.5 million engagement fee to explore the viability of collaborating with MAPS and MAPS PBC to accelerate research into MDMA-assisted therapy for traumatic brain injury (TBI). The engagement fee will be used by MAPS and MAPS PBC, in part, to finance evaluation of legal, scientific, and operational elements of the proposed commercial relationship.



MAPS Awarded \$12.9 Million Grant from Michigan to Expand Cannabis Research for Veterans with PTSD

August 10, 2021

- Phase 2 clinical trial will compare the safety and efficacy of self-titrated high-THC cannabis against placebo for treatment of PTSD among Veterans
- Second clinical trial of inhaled botanical cannabis is expected to substantially contribute to body of evidence regarding cannabis as a medicine for PTSD
- If positive results are achieved, Phase 3 trials will be conducted to support development of a prescribable inhaled cannabis medication eligible for insurance coverage

Policy and Advocacy

U.S. House Appropriations Bill Signals Sea Change in Psychedelic, Cannabis Research

July 30, 2021

- Bill directs National Institute of Health (NIH) agencies to undertake and fund research into psychedelic-assisted therapies and potential benefits of cannabis, could accelerate the pace of research
- Special emphasis on Veterans with PTSD recommends first-ever public funding of MDMA-assisted therapy for PTSD, a highly promising treatment under investigation
- Vast majority of research of MDMA-assisted therapy for PTSD thus far has been sponsored by non-profit MAPS and funded by philanthropic donors

