



MAPS
MULTIDISCIPLINARY ASSOCIATION FOR PSYCHEDELIC STUDIES

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PRESS RELEASE:
**MAPS Celebrates 25 Years of Courageous Research
with Five-Day Conference in San Francisco Bay Area**

OAKLAND, Calif. – From Dec. 8-12, the nonprofit Multidisciplinary Association for Psychedelic Studies (MAPS) will host a five-day conference and celebration to commemorate 25 years of groundbreaking research into the medical uses of psychedelics and marijuana.

Prior to their criminalization for recreational use, therapists around the world used LSD, MDMA, and other psychedelics to assist in psychotherapy. These therapists found that when used carefully under the right circumstances, psychedelics could safely enhance the therapeutic process. The criminalization of these substances, along with exaggerated claims about their risks, led to a near-complete halt on legal studies into their possible benefits as therapeutic tools.

Harvard graduate Rick Doblin, Ph.D., founded MAPS in 1986 to reinvigorate research into the risks and therapeutic benefits of psychedelics and medical marijuana. Twenty-five years later, MAPS is planning or conducting research in six countries and on four continents, including the United States, Canada, Switzerland, Israel, Jordan, Mexico, and New Zealand.

MAPS' current highest-priority project is MDMA-assisted psychotherapy research for chronic, treatment-resistant posttraumatic stress disorder (PTSD), including for survivors of sexual assault and combat veterans. MAPS also recently received permission from the U.S. Food and Drug Administration to conduct the first-ever outpatient study of marijuana for symptoms of PTSD in veterans of war.

MAPS' research has received widespread positive media attention from *The New York Times*, *ELLE*, *O: The Oprah Magazine*, *High Times*, *The Economist*, *The National Geographic Channel*, *TIME Magazine*, *BBC*, *The Washington Post*, *Stars and Stripes*, and more.

The conference, entitled Cartographie Psychedelica, will offer attendees a unique combination of education and entertainment, including lectures and full-day workshops with internationally-acclaimed leaders in the psychedelic and medical marijuana research community, a tribute dinner, live auction, morning cruise on the San Francisco Bay, psychedelic and cannabusiness expo, and more.

Full-day workshops will address the principles of psychedelic-assisted therapy, the science and politics of medical marijuana, visionary art, the past and future of psychedelic science, the Women's Visionary Congress, psychedelic neuroscience, and current research on ayahuasca, MDMA, and medical marijuana.

Cartographie Psychedelica will feature a live benefit auction and workshops with pioneers of visionary art, as well as a tribute dinner to honor the contributions of transpersonal psychologists Stanislav and Christina Grof to the fast-growing field of psychedelic research.

All proceeds from Cartographie Psychedelica will support MAPS' ongoing research and education projects, and help build the foundation for the next 25 years of daring research into psychedelics and marijuana as safe and effective therapeutic tools.

For more information, please visit www.maps.org or www.maps.org/25.

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