MDMA in Clinical Practice

Biography of Presenters:

John Halpern, M.D., is the Associate Director of Substance Abuse Research, Biological Psychiatry Laboratory, Alcohol and Drug Abuse Research Center, McLean Hospital/Harvard Medical School. Dr. Halpern's current research projects include evaluating cognitive performance of MDMA users and non-users in the Southwest who have not ingested other illegal drugs. His current work also includes researching the effects of an experimental treatment giving MDMA to terminally ill cancer patients. He is also working on research into the use of hallucinogens (psilocybin, LSD, etc.) to help relieve Cluster Headaches and looking at long term mental function in regular users of Ayahuasca. Dr Halpern's previous work has included study- ing the use of peyote by members of the Native American Church, re-examining the use of hallucinogens in the treatment of addiction, working on an amicus brief to the US Supreme Court for the UDV religious-use-of-ayahuasca case that was decided in 2006, asking the American Academy of Psychiatry and Law to take a stand against capital punishment, and other interesting work. Current research affiliations: McLean Hospital/Harvard Medical School, National Institute on Drug Abuse, private foundations.

L. (Ilsa) Jerome, Ph.D., earned her Ph.D. in psychology from the University of Maryland, where she studied social psychology. She works as MAPS' research and information specialist. She has written informational documents on psilocybin, LSD and MDMA and has co-authored publications examining the beliefs and experiences of ecstasy
users. She is interested in using behavioral science and neuroscience methods to study emotion and social interaction, and sees MDMA as a valuable research tool. She encourages playfulness, persistence and building community in the pursuit of knowledge.

Matthew W. Johnson, Ph.D., is Assistant Professor of Psychiatry and Behavioral Sciences at Johns Hopkins University School of Medicine. He is co-investigator of the Johns Hopkins studies on psilocybin and mystical experience, and psilocybin in the treatment of cancer anxiety/depression. He has investigated the human psychopharmacology of a wide range of drugs including psilocybin, Salvia Divinorum, dextromethorphan, GHB, cocaine, alcohol, nicotine, and caffeine. Dr. Johnson is principal investigator of a research program on the psychological underpinnings of addiction, and is currently con- ducting a pilot study investigating the therapeutic use of psilocybin in the treatment of nicotine dependence. He was lead author on a recent review paper describing the unique safety requirements of human hallucinogen research, and will present on this topic.

Ilsa Jerome, Ph.D.-Mining MDMA Literature: Finding Gems in the Rough from MAPS: Psychedelic Science on Vimeo.

Matt Johnson-John Hopkins Guidelines for Safety in Human Hallucinogenic Research from MAPS: Psychedelic Science on Vimeo.