

# MARS



VOLUME XIII NUMBER 2

## Winter 2003

- 4 **Letter from Rick Doblin, Ph.D.**
- 7 **MDMA-Assisted Psychotherapy in the Treatment of Post-traumatic Stress Disorder (PTSD): A Third Update on the Approval Process**  
Michael Mithoefer, M.D.
- 9 **Obtaining an Independent Supply of Research Marijuana: The First of Two Prerequisites to a Realistic Medical Marijuana Research Effort**  
Rick Doblin, Ph.D.
- 14 **The Struggle to Resume Ketamine Psychotherapy Studies in St. Petersburg**  
Evgeny Krupitsy, M.D., Ph.D.
- 16 **Ibogaine: Treatment Outcomes and Observations**  
Two ibogaine treatment providers
- 22 **New MDMA Research at the 65th Annual Meeting of the College on Problems of Drug Dependence (CPDD) – June 14–19, 2003, Sheraton Bal Harbour, Miami, Florida**  
Matthew Baggott
- 25 **The GHB National Conference: A Visit to a Different Kind of Drug Activist Community**  
Valerie Mojeiko
- 28 **Lending a Hand at Burning Man: Psychedelic Emergency Services in the Black Rock Desert**  
Brandy Doyle
- 32 **Beyond Belief – Exactly!**  
By Sam
- 33 **Not Your Father's Revolution: Two Summer Conferences and the Next Generation of Psychedelics, Spirituality, and Community-building**  
Valerie Mojeiko and Brandy Doyle
- 37 **A Review of Practicing Harm Reduction Psychotherapy by Patt Denning**  
Bruce Sewick, MA, LCPC
- 39 **Letters to the Editors**
- 41 **Membership/Staff Pages**

MAPS (Multidisciplinary Association for Psychedelic Studies) is a membership-based organization working to assist psychedelic researchers around the world design, obtain governmental approval, fund, conduct and report on psychedelic research in humans. Founded in 1986, MAPS is an IRS approved 501 (c)(3) non-profit corporation funded by tax-deductible donations. MAPS is now focused primarily on assisting scientists to conduct human studies to generate essential information about the risks and psychotherapeutic benefits of MDMA, other psychedelics, and marijuana, with the goal of eventually gaining government approval for their medical uses. Interested parties wishing to copy any portion of this publication are encouraged to do so and are kindly requested to credit MAPS including name and address. The MAPS Bulletin is produced by a small group of dedicated staff and volunteers. Your participation, financial or otherwise, is welcome.

©2003 Multidisciplinary Association  
for Psychedelic Studies, Inc. (MAPS)  
2105 Robinson Avenue,  
Sarasota, FL 34232  
Phone: 941-924-6277; Toll-free: 888-868-MAPS  
Fax: 941-924-6265; E-mail: [info@maps.org](mailto:info@maps.org)  
Web: <http://www.maps.org>

Cover – “Holy Fire (Panel 1)” by Alex Grey, from his art book *Sacred Mirrors*. For signed books and posters visit <http://www.alexgrey.com>

Images on p.2, Top: ©2003 DzM (<http://www.dzm.com>)  
Bottom: ©2003 Steve Olridge (<http://www.photosurreal.com>)

Image on p.16 from *Plants of the Gods: Their Sacred, Healing and Hallucinogenic Powers* by Richard Evans Schultes, Albert Hofmann and Christian Rätsch ©1998 Healing Arts Press

Image on p. 40 from the book *Shamanism and Tantra in the Himalayas* by Surendra Bahadur Shahi, Christian Rätsch and Claudia Müller-Ebeling ©2000 Inner Traditions Intl Ltd



Edited by Rick Doblin, Brandy Doyle  
and Valerie Mojeiko  
Layout and Design by Mercedes Paulino

ISSN 1080-8981  
Printed on recycled paper

## DIVINE SPARK

The cover of this MAPS bulletin is an image from visionary artist Alex Grey's triptych *Holy Fire*, which was inspired by one of Alex's early MDMA experiences. We thought it was an appropriate choice to express our emotions at obtaining Institutional Review Board (IRB) approval for Dr. Mithoefer's MAPS-sponsored MDMA/PTSD study (see page 7).

The rest of the images on this page and on the back cover are from the 2003 Burning Man Festival, at which MAPS provided psychedelic emergency services. (Article on page 28). In the photo above, members of the Fire Conclave open the festivities at the Burning of the Man, the climax of the week-long festival. The photo below depicts the more somber burning of the Temple of Honor, at which Burning Man participants remember loved ones by leaving notes and tokens inside. As the temple burned, MAPS president Rick Doblin threw in the fire the original copies of the last set of documents about protocol design issues exchanged between MAPS and the IRB. This symbolized his hopes that we would finally move beyond the paperwork of the approval process to the therapeutic work of the study itself.

On September 29, 2003, we received word that Dr. Mithoefer's study won IRB approval (see page 5 for details). After almost two years of bureaucratic and political delays, we are moving to the next phase – seeking a DEA Schedule I license, and then at last beginning to treat patients.

Fire evokes creation, destruction, purification, chaos, and mystery. Its warmth keeps hope alive during the darkness and cold of winter – as celebrated in the candlelit festivals of Christmas, Hanukkah, and other winter celebrations throughout history. As we persevere through what has been a dark season for psychedelic research, we thank you for your continued support as together we keep the light of compassion and reason burning.