



Psychedelic Medicines and the Mind

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Psychedelics are among the most powerful, interesting, and poorly understood of all the psychoactive substances. They produce a variety of complex effects on the brain and mind, including intensification of thoughts and feelings, alterations of sensory perception, and loosening of psychological defenses. As such, psychedelics probe the connection between brain physiology and consciousness, perhaps the most deeply mysterious arena in contemporary science. In their plant and fungal forms, psychedelics have been used by humans for millennia for medicinal and spiritual purposes. Scientific research with psychedelics has taken place for more than a century, and was one of the driving forces in the early days of biological psychiatry. The widespread popular use of some of these substances in the 1960s contributed to legal regulation that closed down human research. Now, after 30 years of quiescence, human clinical research with psychedelics has returned to mainstream science. This workshop covers the history, botany, chemistry, psychology, and sociology of psychedelics, leading up to the re-emergence of contemporary research addressing the medicinal and spiritual aspects of these substances.

Continuing Education credit for psychologists, MFTs, LCSWs, and nurses.

David Presti, PhD, teaches neurobiology, psychology, and cognitive science at the University of California in Berkeley, and worked for many years in the clinical treatment of addiction at the San Francisco VA Medical Center.

Kristi Panik, MD, is a psychiatrist in private practice and on the clinical staff of the University Student Health Services at UC Berkeley.