

The Beckley Foundation promotes a rational, evidence-based approach to global drug policy. It also initiates, directs and supports pioneering scientific research into consciousness, its altered states, and wellbeing.

**The Beckley Foundation** is dedicated to increasing understanding of the health, social and financial benefits of more liberal drug policies, and to redirecting global drug policy towards a more health-oriented, less punitive approach. We commission original research into the social and economic impact of drugs and the policies that control them, publish reports and books to inform and guide opinion-formers and policy-makers, and convene high-level, influential seminars.

**SEMINARS:** The Beckley Foundation has hosted a series of international seminars at the House of Lords. These high-impact events discuss alternative approaches to current drug policies.

**PUBLICATIONS:** The Beckley Foundation Press publishes books and reports written by international policy experts and scientists. These include the results of research which demonstrates the harms done by current drug policies, and how these harms could be reduced by new, more rational, evidence-based approaches.

**CANNABIS COMMISSION:** This is the first comprehensive review of global cannabis-use and the policies that control it. It provides a practical blueprint for change and includes a new *Draft Framework Convention for Cannabis Control*. Recently it has been co-published as a book entitled *Cannabis Policy: Moving Beyond Stalemate* by Oxford University Press.

**DRAFT CONVENTION:** The new draft convention on all illegal drugs will provide a template for governments which seek an alternative to the current prohibitive UN Conventions, thereby allowing a more rational, health-oriented approach to drug policy, which can be tailored to the needs of individual nations.

**SCALE OF HARM:** In 2004 the Beckley Foundation initiated the development of a new classification system called *A Scientifically Based Scale of Harm for all Social Drugs*, by Prof. Colin Blakemore. It is now widely acknowledged that the best approach is to develop a drug-classification system which is based on the scientifically-evaluated harms of each drug.

**The Beckley Foundation** initiates, directs and supports a multi-disciplinary programme of scientific studies into the potential benefits, as well as the risks, of psychoactive substances. The prohibitionist climate over the last forty years made research of this kind practically impossible. However, our work has helped to usher in a new era, and we are now collaborating on neuroscientific and therapeutic studies with major institutions around the world. The Foundation also directs and supports research into the effects of meditation and changes in cerebral circulation. Our aim is to provide scientific evidence to inform clinical practice and policy with the aim of improving health and wellbeing.

Key studies include:

**PSILOCYBIN:** (The active ingredient in magic mushrooms.) This breakthrough research, the first psychedelic study in the UK in recent times, and the first ever to use fMRI brain-imaging to study how psilocybin affects cerebral circulation and brain function, is providing some remarkable results. Another study on which we are collaborating in the US is the first to investigate the possible role of psilocybin as an aid to psychotherapy in overcoming addiction – in this case treatment-resistant addiction to nicotine.

**LSD:** The first research in modern times to gain approvals to use LSD in human participants, investigating the effects of LSD on brain connectivity and creativity. We are also supporting a study, which investigates whether LSD can ease pre-death anxiety in terminally ill patients.

**CANNABIS:** Our cannabis research programme is at the forefront of investigations into the varying effects of the different chemical components of cannabis, and clarifies the fundamental importance of cannabidiol (CBD), which has a beneficial effect on psychosis, anxiety, inflammation, nausea and cancer cell growth.

Due to the criminalization of cannabis, CBD has been bred out of 'street' cannabis. We hope this research will

lead to the better understanding of the importance of a balanced chemical composition in order to reduce the harms associated with cannabis use. In another study, we are researching the possible link between cannabis and creativity.

The Beckley Foundation also initiated a UK/US collaboration aimed at discovering the potential medicinal uses of cannabis in treating a wide range of conditions. This is the first study to analyse the chemical content of individual strains, and to compare the results of cannabis-treatment with treatment by conventional pharmaceutical means.

**CEREBRAL CIRCULATION:** Our unique research programme, based in Russia, examines how the cerebral circulation of blood and cerebrospinal fluid affects cognition, and the health of the brain, and how these relationships change with age. This research has developed a new, non-invasive monitoring device which may provide early warning of age-related diseases, such as Alzheimer's.

**MEDITATION:** We are working on the development of a neuro-feedback device which will improve an individual's ability to reach higher states of consciousness through meditation.

Key collaborations include:

- Prof. David Nutt and the Beckley Foundation/Imperial College Psychedelic Research Programme, London
- Prof. Valerie Curran, University College, London
- Dr. Paul Morrison, Institute of Psychiatry, London
- Prof. Roland Griffiths, Johns Hopkins University, Washington
- Prof. Yuri Moskalkenko, Sechenov Institute, St Petersburg



Amanda Feilding, Lady Neidpath started the Beckley Foundation in 1998 to further her life-long interest in consciousness and its heightened states. Her initial - and continuing - aim is to investigate the possible benefits which may be delivered through the responsible use of psychoactive substances and other techniques used to enhance consciousness. The Foundation also works to promote a more effective, less harmful global drug policy. It has founded two international institutions to help in this process: the *International Society for the Study of Drug Policy (ISSDP)* and the *International Drug Policy Consortium (IDPC)*, both of which are now independent organizations. The Beckley Foundation is also a UN-accredited NGO.

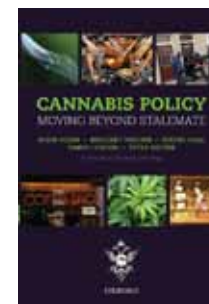
One of her aims is to change people's current perception of altered states of consciousness and break the common assumption that *all* drug-use is *misuse*. Both the scientific and policy work of the Foundation researches the potential benefits of responsible drug-use, as well as clarifying their risks. She believes, for example, that, used correctly, the mind-altering effects of hallucinogens and cannabis can be used as powerful tools in neuroscience, psychotherapy and personal development, and that global drug policy should permit these potential benefits to be researched and developed.

Amanda runs the Beckley Foundation from Beckley Park in Oxford. She is married to Jamie Wemyss and has two sons, Rock and Cosmo.

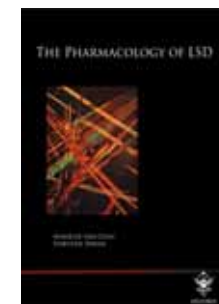
Prof. Colin Blakemore	Prof. Gustav Born
Prof. Gordon Claridge	Prof. Val Curran
Prof. Mark Geyer	Prof. Lester Grinspoon
Prof. Leslie Iversen	Prof. David Nichols
Prof. David Nutt	Prof. Yuri Moskalkenko
Prof. Trevor Robbins	Dr. Alexander Shulgin
Prof. Vilayanur Ramachandran	

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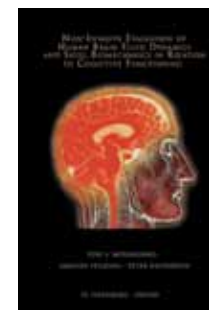
Apart from over 35 drug policy Reports, Briefing Papers and Proceedings Documents, the Beckley Foundation Press has published the following books in 2010:



*Cannabis Policy:  
Moving Beyond Stalemate*  
co-published with OUP



*The Pharmacology of LSD*  
co-published with OUP



*The Moskalkenko Monograph*



*Hoffmann's Elixir:  
LSD and the New Eleusis*