

-PRESS RELEASE-



The Beckley Foundation joins global coalition launched to secure a rescheduling of psilocybin under the 1971 UN Convention on Psychotropic Substances.

Oxford, UK, 11.01.2022 – Today, the Beckley Foundation joins in the launch of the International Therapeutic Psilocybin Rescheduling Initiative (ITPRI), a global coalition working to promote and secure a rescheduling of psilocybin under the 1971 Convention on Psychotropic Substances. Psilocybin is the active ingredient in what are commonly known as 'magic mushrooms', a naturally occurring chemical compound that is increasingly seen as highly safe and effective in treating many forms of mental illness and addiction.

“As a dedicated partner, the Beckley Foundation is proud to support this important initiative. Achieving a rescheduling of psilocybin will help advance the critical work we are doing to ensure the availability of psychedelic therapies for those suffering from mental illness and addiction”, says **Amanda Feilding, the Beckley Foundation’s Founder and Executive Director**, “We need to reschedule the classic psychedelics so that scientific research can be more easily undertaken, and doctors can prescribe them. My aim is, and has always been, to introduce a scientific evidence base on which new drug policies can be built.”

In most countries, legal control of psilocybin results from its Schedule I status under the 1971 Convention on Psychotropic Substances. Meant for dangerous drugs which create an especially serious risk to public health and whose therapeutic value is of little to none, Schedule I drugs are subject to strict limits on their scientific and medical use. Schedule I licensing, safe-custody, security, manufacturing, quantity, and import/export restrictions result in a level of regulatory control and oversight that is drastically more onerous than for the Convention’s other three schedules. As a result, researchers wishing to study psilocybin face numerous regulatory hurdles which add significantly to the cost, complexity, and duration of research and can negatively impact ethical approvals, funding and collaboration.

According to **Professor David Nutt, head of Imperial College London’s Centre for Psychedelic Research and Founder of ITPRI partner Drug Science**, “psilocybin’s Schedule I status has severely limited – and continues to limit - neuroscience research and the development of treatments for patients.”

Psilocybin is one of several psychedelic compounds that have shown remarkable promise for the treatment of a range of mental health conditions, including treatment-resistant depression, major depressive disorder, post-traumatic stress disorder, end-life-psychological distress and substance use disorder.

The evidentiary basis for including psilocybin in Schedule I remains unclear but appears to have been based largely on political considerations and a mistaken presumption that these drugs offered no medical benefit and posed a high risk of abuse and dependence.

Basing its objectives on research from a number of leading universities and institutes, and with the ultimate goal of accelerating research and fostering the availability of psilocybin-assisted

therapies for those suffering from mental illness and addiction, ITPRI will pursue a change to psilocybin's current Schedule I status.

Christopher Koddermann, ITPRI Co-founder and Chair of the Board of Directors, says "Given today's scientific understanding of psilocybin's high potential therapeutic value and low risk of abuse, a change of its status as a Schedule I drug is long overdue."

"Rescheduling procedures under the 1971 Convention offer a potentially game-changing opportunity to advance further research and accelerate the approval of treatments for patients", says **Willem Scholten, ITPRI Advisory Board member and former Secretary to the WHO Expert Committee on Drug Dependence**, the body responsible for international drug control scheduling recommendations.

About the Beckley Foundation

Since its creation by Amanda Feilding in 1998, the Beckley Foundation has been at the forefront of global drug policy reform and scientific research into psychoactive substances. We collaborate with leading scientific and political institutions worldwide to design and develop ground-breaking research and global policy initiatives.

The Beckley Foundation's purpose is two-fold: First, to scientifically investigate the effects of psychoactive substances on the brain and consciousness in order to harness their potential benefits and minimise their potential harms; learn more about consciousness and brain function; and discover and explore new avenues for the treatment of illnesses. Second, to achieve evidence-based changes in global drug policies in order to reduce the harms brought about by the unintended negative consequences of current drug policies, and develop improved policies based on health, harm reduction, cost-effectiveness, and human rights.

About the International Therapeutic Psilocybin Rescheduling Initiative

Founded in 2021 as a civil society, not-for-profit association under Articles 60 *et seq.* of the Swiss Civil Code, the International Therapeutic Psilocybin Rescheduling Initiative brings together an international coalition of leading psychedelic therapy advocacy and research organisations to promote and secure a rescheduling of psilocybin under the 1971 UN Convention on Psychotropic Substances. Partner organisations in this effort are the [Beckley Foundation](#), [Drug Science](#), the [Multidisciplinary Association for Psychedelic Studies \(MAPS\)](#), [Mind Medicine Australia](#), [Nierika AC](#), the [Open Foundation](#) and the [Osmond Foundation](#). Utilising rescheduling procedures available under the 1971 Convention, ITPRI will engage signatory governments to the treaty, the WHO and other international institutions to secure a review of and change to psilocybin's Schedule I status.

For more information, please visit www.reschedulepsilocybin.org

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