

Psilocybin Study for Tobacco Gets Federal Funding



BY RITIKA DUBEY (HTTPS://WWW.TRUFFLE.REPORT/AUTHOR/RITIKA/)
SEPTEMBER 21, 2021



A psilocybin study to treat tobacco addiction is being funded by a U.S. federal drug research agency as a 'high-risk clinical study', the first time a complete investigation into the possible therapeutic benefits of a classical psychedelic has received federal funds since the War on Drugs was declared in the 1970s.

Dr. Matthew W. Johnson — professor at Johns Hopkins and lead co-investigator in the psilocybin-facilitated smoking cessation study — made the announcement on social media Monday, confirming the news of the multi-site clinical trial for tobacco addiction funded by the National Institute on Drug Abuse (NIDA).

The federal drug agency's [U01 grant \(https://grants.nih.gov/grants/funding/funding_program.htm\)](https://grants.nih.gov/grants/funding/funding_program.htm) — the designation for a Research Project Cooperative Agreement — is an investigator-initiated, 'multi-center high-risk clinical study' that would allow the three sites, namely, John Hopkins, New York University, and the University of Alabama at Birmingham, to study a psychedelic substance for tobacco addiction. Johns Hopkins will be the lead site under the leadership of Dr. Johnson. The other two sites will be led by Dr. Michael Bogenschutz (<https://www.truffle.report/dr-michael-bogenschutz-of-nyu-langones-center-for-psychedelic-medicine/>) and Dr. Peter Hendricks respectively.



Matthew W. Johnson
@Drug_Researcher



It's official. I just receive a U01 grant from NIDA to study #psilocybin for tobacco addiction. To my knowledge it's the 1st grant from the US government in over a half century to directly study therapeutics of a classic #psychedelic. New era in legitimacy of psychedelic science.

5K 157 Share this Tweet

Tweet your reply

"This is extremely encouraging. Public funding for psychedelic science is critical," says Dr. Hendricks, professor at the Department of Health Behavior of the University of Alabama at Birmingham. "My hope is that this opens the door to further scientific inquiry, and ultimately, the advancement of a treatment paradigm that has the potential to alleviate suffering across the globe," he writes to *Truffle Report* in an email response.

The study, *5-HT2A Agonist Psilocybin in the Treatment of Tobacco Use Disorder* will be a three-year project, expected to be completed by September 2024. Dr. Justin Strickland, Instructor of Psychiatry and Behavioral Sciences at Johns Hopkins University School of Medicine tells *Truffle Report*. On the updated research budget, he says, "With the notice of award just sent over [on Monday], I am not sure what the final budget numbers looked like."

Johns Hopkins University School of Medicine has been studying the potential of psilocybin for treating nicotine addiction since 2008. In their pilot study for *5-HT2A Agonist Psilocybin in the Treatment of Tobacco Use Disorder* — published in 2014 (<https://pubmed.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/25213996/>) — the investigators determined that psilocybin "may be a potentially efficacious adjunct to current smoking cessation treatment models." The research concluded by suggesting that it could point scientists in a direction for future works that may include a "qualitative study of participants' accounts regarding potential psychological mechanisms, and neuroimaging studies to inform biological mechanisms."

The pilot study was also partly funded by NIDA under the [NIH Research Project Grant Program \(R01\)](https://grants.nih.gov/grants/funding/r01.htm), one of the most commonly used grant programs.

SEE ALSO



[\(https://www.truffle.report/psychedelics-relationships-and-couples-therapy/\)](https://www.truffle.report/psychedelics-relationships-and-couples-therapy/)

FEATURED ([HTTPS://WWW.TRUFFLE.REPORT/CATEGORY/FEATURED/](https://www.truffle.report/category/featured/)), MEDICAL & SCIENTIFIC ([HTTPS://WWW.TRUFFLE.REPORT/CATEGORY/MEDICAL-SCIENTIFIC-PSYCHEDELIC-BREAKTHROUGHS-HISTORY-AND-RESEARCH/](https://www.truffle.report/category/medical-scientific-psychedelic-breakthroughs-history-and-research/)), PEOPLE & PERSPECTIVES ([HTTPS://WWW.TRUFFLE.REPORT/CATEGORY/PEOPLE-AND-PERSPECTIVES-PSYCHEDELIC-CULTURE-INTERVIEWS-AND-PROFILES/](https://www.truffle.report/category/people-and-perspectives-psychedelic-culture-interviews-and-profiles/))

Psychedelics, Relationships, and Couples Therapy
(<https://www.truffle.report/psychedelics-relationships-and-couples-therapy/>)

Besides this, Johns Hopkins researchers, including Dr. Johnson and Dr. Roland Griffiths, have in [recent years](https://www.truffle.report/johns-hopkins-center-for-psychedelic-and-consciousness-research/?thumbnail_id=45183) (https://www.truffle.report/johns-hopkins-center-for-psychedelic-and-consciousness-research/?thumbnail_id=45183) looked into pilot and long-term implications of psilocybin-assisted smoking cessation. An ongoing study, [expected to conclude in December 2022](https://clinicaltrials.gov/ct2/show/NCT01943994). (<https://clinicaltrials.gov/ct2/show/NCT01943994>) will be enrolling about 95 participants suffering from nicotine dependence for a randomized psilocybin-facilitated smoking cessation treatment.

Can Magic Mushrooms Cure Addiction?





-05:58



Courtesy of *The Atlantic*

Tobacco is one of the leading causes of death in the world, killing over 8 million people each year, according to a [2021 report](https://www.who.int/news-room/fact-sheets/detail/tobacco) (<https://www.who.int/news-room/fact-sheets/detail/tobacco>) by the World Health Organization. In the U.S., the economic cost of smoking tobacco accounts for over \$300 billion a year— \$225 billion in direct medical care and \$156 billion in lost productivity, the U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) [says](https://www.cdc.gov/tobacco/data_statistics/fact_sheets/fast_facts/index.htm) (https://www.cdc.gov/tobacco/data_statistics/fact_sheets/fast_facts/index.htm)

Recently, drug policy [advocacy groups](https://www.truffle.report/u-s-house-committee-touts-federal-psychedelic-research-aoc-files-amendment/) (<https://www.truffle.report/u-s-house-committee-touts-federal-psychedelic-research-aoc-files-amendment/>) have been pushing for federal grants to support psychedelic sciences. Meanwhile, various representatives from federal agencies have been acknowledging the data from studies into the therapeutic efficacy of psychedelics. In May, Nora D. Volkow, the director of NIDA [penned an op-ed](https://www.truffle.report/drug-agency-director-pens-decriminalization-op-ed/) (<https://www.truffle.report/drug-agency-director-pens-decriminalization-op-ed/>) criticizing the disproportionate effects of the War on Drugs.

Truffle Report will update the story on the grant amount when the information becomes available.

SIGN UP TO OUR NEWSLETTER

Get notified about the latest developments in the psychedelic space!

YOUR E-MAIL

SIGN UP

I would like to receive news and special offers.

TAGS [ADDICTION \(HTTPS://WWW.TRUFFLE.REPORT/TAG/ADDICTION/\)](https://www.truffle.report/tag/addiction/) [FEDERAL GRANT \(HTTPS://WWW.TRUFFLE.REPORT/TAG/FEDERAL-GRANT/\)](https://www.truffle.report/tag/federal-grant/) [NIDA \(HTTPS://WWW.TRUFFLE.REPORT/TAG/NIDA/\)](https://www.truffle.report/tag/nida/) [PSILLOCYBIN \(HTTPS://WWW.TRUFFLE.REPORT/TAG/PSILLOCYBIN/\)](https://www.truffle.report/tag/psilocybin/) [RESEARCH GRANT \(HTTPS://WWW.TRUFFLE.REPORT/TAG/RESEARCH-GRANT/\)](https://www.truffle.report/tag/research-grant/) [TRUFFLE REPORT \(HTTPS://WWW.TRUFFLE.REPORT/TAG/TRUFFLE-REPORT/\)](https://www.truffle.report/tag/truffle-report/) [TRUFFLE REPORT \(HTTPS://WWW.TRUFFLE.REPORT/TAG/TRUFFLE-REPORT-2/\)](https://www.truffle.report/tag/truffle-report-2/)



[RITIKA DUBEY \(HTTPS://WWW.TRUFFLE.REPORT/AUTHOR/RITIKA/\)](https://www.truffle.report/author/ritika/) [🐦\(https://twitter.com/Curiostories\)](https://twitter.com/Curiostories)

[@\)\(https://www.instagram.com/curiostories/\)](https://www.instagram.com/curiostories/)

Ritika is a Toronto-based reporter. She writes about drug policies and developments in psychedelics.

SHARE

(<https://www.facebook.com/sharer.php?u=https://www.truffle>

TWEET (https://twitter.com/share?text=Psilocybin%20Study%20for%20Tobacco%20Gets%20Federal%20Funding&via=truffle_report&url=https://www.truffle-report/federal-funding/)

(mailto:?)

[subject=Psilocybin%20Study%20for%20Tobacco%20Gets%20Federal%20Funding&body=Psilocybin%20Study%20for%20Tobacco%20Gets%20Federal%20Funding](mailto:?subject=Psilocybin%20Study%20for%20Tobacco%20Gets%20Federal%20Funding&body=Psilocybin%20Study%20for%20Tobacco%20Gets%20Federal%20Funding&body=Psilocybin%20Study%20for%20Tobacco%20Gets%20Federal%20Funding))

TWITTER

([HTTPS://TWITTER.COM/TRUFFLE_REPORT](https://twitter.com/truffle_report))

INSTAGRAM

([HTTPS://INSTAGRAM.COM/TRUFFLE_REPORT](https://instagram.com/truffle_report))



(https://twitter.com/Truffle_Report)

TRUFFLE REPORT @TRUFFLE_REPORT

870 FOLLOWING 2.0K FOLLOWERS

In the first part of our new series on #psychedlic (<https://twitter.com/search?q=psychedlic>) patenting practices, Truffle Report looks at issues of IP law an... <https://t.co/qA5NjIB4Gt> (<https://t.co/qA5NjIB4Gt>)

2 HOURS AGO (HTTPS://TWITTER.COM/TRUFFLE_REPORT/STATUS/1440720703188193296)

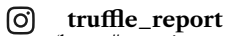
https://twitter.com/intent/tweet?in_reply_to=1440720703188193296 ↕ https://twitter.com/intent/retweet?tweet_id=1440720703188193296

👍 https://twitter.com/intent/favorite?tweet_id=1440720703188193296

RT @doubleblindmag (<https://twitter.com/doubleblindmag>): Is the word "entheogen" really a "better" word to describe some plant medicines? 🧐 "Entheogen" literally means "crea...

1 DAY AGO (HTTPS://TWITTER.COM/TRUFFLE_REPORT/STATUS/1440350130247323649)

https://twitter.com/intent/tweet?in_reply_to=1440350130247323649 ↕ https://twitter.com/intent/retweet?tweet_id=1440350130247323649 🍷 https://twitter.com/intent/favorite?tweet_id=1440350130247323649



truffle_report

(https://www.instagram.com/truffle_report/)

(<https://www.instagram.com/p/CUIld8fXpjJR/>)

(<https://www.instagram.com/p/CUFvU12FIX1/>)

(<https://www.instagram.com/p/CUDS5U8rXEH/>)

(<https://www.instagram.com/p/CT7smcsjSMP/>)

Load More...

👤 Follow on Instagram (https://www.instagram.com/truffle_report/)

[View Comments \(0\)](#)

RELATED POSTS



(<https://www.truffle.report/canadian-coalition-submits-draft-for-legal-psilocybin-therapy/>)



(<https://www.truffle.report/more-michigan-cities-look-to-decriminalize-psychedelics/>)



(<https://www.truffle.report/detroit-to-vote-on-decriminalizing-psychedelics-on-nov-6/>)



(<https://www.truffle.report/fireside-ucsf-to-study-impact-of-peer-support-helpline/>)

LEGAL (<HTTPS://WWW.TRUFFLE.REPORT/CATEGORY/LEGAL>)

Canadian Coalition Submits Draft for Legal Psilocybin Therapy.
(<https://www.truffle.report/canadian-coalition-submits-draft-for-legal-psilocybin-therapy/>)

LEGAL (<HTTPS://WWW.TRUFFLE.REPORT/CATEGORY/LEGAL>)

More Michigan Cities Look to Decriminalize Psychedelics
(<https://www.truffle.report/more-michigan-cities-look-to-decriminalize-psychedelics/>)

LEGAL (<HTTPS://WWW.TRUFFLE.REPORT/CATEGORY/LEGAL>)

Detroit to Vote on Decriminalizing Psychedelics on Nov 6
(<https://www.truffle.report/detroit-to-vote-on-decriminalizing-psychedelics-on-nov-6/>)

BUSINESS & FINANCE (<HTTPS://WWW.TRUFFLE.REPORT/CATEGORY/PSYCHEDLICS-RESEARCH>)

UCSF to Study Impact of Peer Support Helpline
(<https://www.truffle.report/fireside-ucsf-to-study-impact-of-peer-support-helpline/>)

[coalition-submits-draft-for-legal-psilocybin-therapy/](#)

[michigan-cities-look-to-decriminalize-psychedelics/](#)

[to-vote-on-decriminalizing-psychedelics-on-nov-6/](#)

[Fireside & UCSF to Study Impact of Peer Support Helpline \(https://www.truffle.report/fireside-ucsf-to-study-impact-of-peer-support-helpline/\)](#)

[\(https://www.truffle.report/\)](#) — [\(https://puffdigital.com/\)](#)

[\(https://puffdigital.com/\)](#)

[\(https://puffdigital.com/\)](#)

[\(https://puffdigital.com/\)](#)

[\(https://puffdigital.com/\)](#)

[\(https://puffdigital.com/\)](#)

[\(https://puffdigital.com/\)](#)

[\(https://puffdigital.com/\)](#)

[\(https://puffdigital.com/\)](#)

[Truffle.Report/Contact-Us/](#)

[Privacy Policy\(https://www.truffle.report/privacy-policy-2/\)](#)

[Disclaimer\(https://www.truffle.report/disclaimer/\)](#)

[\(https://www.highermentality.com/\)](#) [\(https://getintotheweeds.com/\)](#)

[\(https://www.puffpuffpost.com/\)](#) [\(https://www.skunkmagazine.com/\)](#)

© 2020 Truffle Report. All Rights Reserved.