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CLBB News

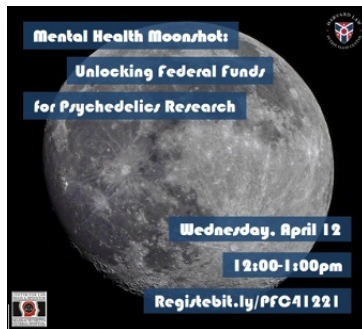
A newsletter from the Center for Law, Brain & Behavior

April 6, 2021

Online Event — Next Week!

[Mental Health Moonshot: Unlocking Federal Funds for Psychedelics Research](#)

Registration is free, but required at this [link](#).



April 12, 2021, 12:00pm-1:00pm ET
The Petrie-Flom Center at Harvard Law School

*To ensure that you will receive access to the livestream and be kept up to date on any changes to the event, [register now](#). We will **send out a link to the livestream of the event to all registrants the day before and day of the event. Last registration is 11:30am on the day of the event.***

The U.S. needs a mental health moonshot.

Inspired by the Apollo moon landing, moonshots are ambitious projects with monumental goals. The U.S. has a history of funding moonshots with federal tax dollars, and the Human Genome Project is one recent example. More recently, in 2016, President Obama and Vice President Biden announced the national Cancer Moonshot to dramatically improve the prevention, diagnosis, and treatment of cancer. That year, Congress allocated \$1.8 billion to fund the project.

The U.S. needs an equally ambitious moonshot to address worsening mental health and substance use crises, leading causes of death exacerbated by the COVID-19 pandemic. However, there are significant barriers to researching a promising new class of drugs for treating mood, anxiety, and substance use disorders: psychedelic compounds, such as psilocybin and MDMA, which are tightly controlled by the Drug Enforcement Administration. In 2019, Rep. Alexandria Ocasio Cortez introduced a bipartisan bill to ease restrictions, which was rejected by the House of Representatives.

This panel will discuss the need for an ambitious federally-funded mental health moonshot built around psychedelics and analyze the obstacles to achieving it.

This event is part of the [Project on Law and Applied Neuroscience](#), a collaboration between the [Center for Law, Brain & Behavior](#) at

Panelists:



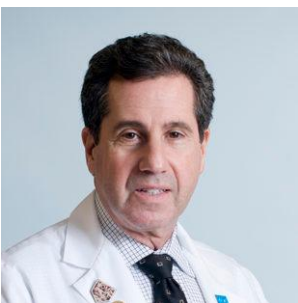
[Dr. Franklin King](#), Psychiatrist, Massachusetts General Hospital



[Melissa Lavasani](#), Founder and Executive Director, Plant Medicine Coalition



[Mason Marks](#), Assistant Professor of Law, Gonzaga University; Fellow in Ethics of Technological and Biomedical Innovation, Edmond J. Safra and Petrie-Flom Centers, Harvard University



[Dr. Jerrold F. Rosenbaum](#), Advisory Board Member, Center for Law, Brain & Behavior (CLBB); Psychiatrist-in-Chief Emeritus and Director, Center for Anxiety and Traumatic Stress Disorders; and Director, Center for Neuroscience of Psychedelics, Massachusetts General Hospital



[Carmel Shachar \(Introduction\)](#), Executive Director, The Petrie-Flom Center for Health Law Policy, Biotechnology, and Bioethics at Harvard Law School

[Elyssa Spitzer \(Moderator\)](#), JD, Senior Fellow in Law and Applied Neuroscience, CLBB and the Petrie-Flom Center



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