

Drug Science Consultancy: Research and policy leaders in medical cannabis and medical psychedelics



Drug Science Consultancy provides research advice and consultancy services to businesses, governments and other stakeholders on all drug related areas, with particular emphasis on the emerging cannabis and psychedelic medicine markets. We are a separate, commercially oriented trading arm of the Drug Science charity, and all profits are returned to the charity to support its charitable objectives.

drugscience.org.uk

Our Expertise

We have extensive experience across a range of scientific disciplines and research and development approaches. Our team includes experts in epidemiology, quantitative and qualitative methods, pharmacology, neuroscience and neuroimaging, as well as clinical trial design. In addition, we understand the regulatory landscape for cannabis and psychedelics, and we can provide guidance on navigating these complex bureaucratic processes.

Drug Science Consultancy is committed to providing the highest quality research advice and consultancy services. We work with our clients to ensure that their research is well-designed, ethical, and compliant with all relevant regulations. We also provide regular updates on progress and make ourselves available to answer questions.

What We Offer

We offer a wide range of research advice and consultancy services, including:

PROJECT MANAGEMENT

Scoping Reviews: Our team will systematically assess the boundaries, objectives, requirements, and deliverables of projects. These foundations give clients a clear understanding of what the project can achieve and how it will be executed. This will often include gathering information about the issue that your project seeks to address, existing solutions, risks, feasibility, budget, and timelines.

Project Coordination: Projects often involve collaborations between multiple organisations. Our reputation and existing collaborations means we are well placed to identify potential partners and manage collaborations that may include Contract Research Organisations (CROs), technology providers, universities, drug developers and other key stakeholders.

Scientific Due Diligence: Drug Science has extensive experience especially in the domains of medical cannabis and psychedelics, allowing us to distinguish credible entities from those who are not. We provide vetting services to assist organisations in safeguarding themselves from potential deception.



Grant Writing: Our experienced team is proficient in crafting compelling grant proposals tailored to the unique requirements of the cannabis, psychedelic, and healthcare sectors. We understand the intricacies of grant applications, from research funding to nonprofit initiatives. By leveraging our expertise, we can help you articulate your vision, align your goals with funding opportunities, and increase your chances of securing vital financial support for your projects.

CONDUCTING RESEARCH

Qualitative Research: We have extensive experience in conducting different types of qualitative research including interviews, focus groups, content analyses, and media analyses amongst others. These approaches are especially important when looking at a novel topic or idea to gain a deep knowledge of current developments in the field and to understand public and media perceptions of them.

Cross Sectional and Longitudinal Surveys: We can provide methodological advice across a range of issues including identification of target population/s and implementation of sampling strategy, design of appropriate assessment batteries including identification of existing validated questionnaires addressing specific topics; analysis and reporting of results. We have experience with novel strategies for targeted recruitment, incorporation of electronic and passive assessments from e.g., wearable devices.

Real World Evidence Data Collection and Analysis: We are uniquely positioned to collect and analyse real-world evidence (RWE) – that is data collected as part of routine administrative practice including clinical practice. We believe that the future of clinical research will take place in the 'real world' which is why we conducted Europe's largest RWE study into medical cannabis. With a proven track record of being able to deliver such studies, we can guide clients through every step of the process.

Statistical Analysis: We have extensive experience in a range of analytical techniques including descriptive, psychometric and inferential approaches incorporating aspects of complex sampling and missing data.

CLINICAL TRIAL DEVELOPMENT

Literature Reviews: We conduct narrative and systematic reviews to identify studies relevant to your research and development needs. The literature review can be used to identify gaps in knowledge and to inform the design of future research.

Protocol Development for Clinical Trials: We can develop a detailed plan for your clinical trial. The protocol includes precise information about the study design, the participants, the interventions, the data collection methods, and the statistical analysis plan.

Clinical Trial Project Management: Once the clinical trial protocol has been developed, we can coordinate the initiation and delivery of the trial incorporating the synchronisation of all stakeholders involved in the trial, including ethical review boards, healthcare services, sponsors, CROs, and regulatory agencies.



Navigating Regulatory Process: We understand the complexities of legal and regulatory requirements for conducting research with scheduled drugs such as cannabis or psychedelics and for other interventions, such as those aimed at reducing the harms associated with non-medical use of drugs. This can be a complex process, and we can help you to navigate these requirements.

COMMUNICATIONS AND MARKETING

Scientific writing: We write up scientific or regulatory results based on data emerging from your research. This can be in the form of reports, academic publications, or even social media posts.

Communication of results: We offer strategies for communication of research results and help to 'translate' the science into a format that ensures the public understanding of the scientific findings. This may involve acting as scientific and/or clinical liaisons to represent companies to the public, policy makers, regulatory authorities, clinicians, healthcare services and to governments.

Materials and Assets Design: Our creative team is able to help companies designs pitch decks, digital assets and infographics that not only convey information effectively but also captivate your target audience. With a keen eye for aesthetics and a deep understanding of visual storytelling, we collaborate closely with you to tailor these materials to your unique brand identity and messaging.

Event Curation: Drug Science is renowned for orchestrating world-class events that consistently reach full capacity. We can collaborate with you to tailor events for diverse audiences and effectively promote them to ensure strong attendance.

PROJECT MANAGEMENT	
Scoping reviews; Grant writing	Project coordination; Due diligence
Qualitative and quantitative	Real world evidence data collection and analysis
CLINICAL TRIAL DEVELOPMENT	
Literature reviews; Protocol development	Clinical trial management; Navigating regulatory processes
COMMUNICATIONS AND MARKETING	
Scientific writing; Communication of results	Materials and assets design; Event curation



Our Experts



Prof David Nutt

Founder and Chief Scientific Officer of Drug Science, David is the Edmond J. Safra Professor of Neuropsychopharmacology and Head of the Centre for Psychedelic Research, at Imperial College London. One of the world's leading researchers on drugs, David continues to fight for evidence-based drug policies.



Prof Mike Barnes

Mike is Chief Medical Officer at Drug Science, a consultant neurologist, as well as Founder Chair of the Medical Cannabis Clinicians Society, Chair of the Cannabis Industry Council and Chair of Maple Tree Med Can Consultancy. A global medical cannabis expert, Mike has dedicated his career to the development of neurological rehabilitation and medical cannabis treatments and education.



Prof Michael Lynskey

Michael is Chief Research Officer at Drug Science and has previously worked as an academic researcher in mental health and drug science in Australia, the US and UK. He is an epidemiologist and research methodologist and has extensive experience running studies including cross-sectional studies, prospective observational studies of general population and clinic samples, genetically informed and real world data.



Dr Anne Katrin Schlag

Long standing Head of Research and currently CEO of Drug Science, Anne is a Chartered Psychologist, with extensive experience in both qualitative and quantitative drug research, especially medical cannabis and medical psychedelics. Anne holds honorary senior positions at both King's College London and Imperial College London.



Dr Hannah Thurgur

Hannah is Senior Researcher at Drug Science, as well as Associate Director of Research at Awakn. Hannah's experience ranges across biochemistry, neuroscience, pre-clinical and clinical research, and she has led research on medical cannabis and psychedelics.



Dr Rayyan Zafar

Rayyan is a Senior Researcher at Drug Science, and postdoctoral fellow at Imperial College London. He has led clinical and neuroscience research in the field of psychopharmacology, and offers extensive experience in clinical trials, as well as biomedical, psychedelic and cannabis science.





Alkyoni Athanasiou-Fragkouli

Alkyoni is Research Officer at Drug Science, where she is instrumental in data collection and analysis of Project Twenty21 (T21), the UK's first medical cannabis registry. She is experienced in large scale project management, stakeholder communications as well as protocol development.



James Bunn

Head of Operations at Drug Science, James is our legal and regulatory consultant with experience in the UK, Canada, Australia, USA, Israel and various EU member states. James contributed to the development of the world's largest psychedelic Real World Evidence project that utilises medical psilocybin products and is able to advise on law and regulatory pathways.



Mags Houston

Mags is our Head of Projects and Communications with extensive marketing and project management experience from the corporate advertising sector. She works across all aspects of the business; managing strategic communications, curating educational events for various sectors, as well as being a main point of liaison with key partners and stakeholders.

We also collaborate with a range of outstanding external consultants as required.

Why choose Drug Science Consultancy?

We are global thought leaders in medical cannabis and medical psychedelics research and committed to providing the highest quality research advice and consultancy services. We work with our clients to ensure that their research is well-designed, ethical, and compliant with all relevant regulations. We also provide regular updates on our progress and make ourselves available to answer questions.

Contact Us

To learn more about Drug Science Consultancy or to discuss your research needs, please contact us at: **consultancy@drugscience.org.uk** or visit our <u>website</u>.

Thank you for your interest in Drug Science Consultancy.



Selected publications: Medical Cannabis

Lynskey MT, et al. Characteristics of and three-month health outcomes for people seeking treatment with prescribed cannabis: Real World evidence from Project Twenty 21.

Nutt DJ, et al. A multicriteria decision analysis comparing pharmacotherapy for chronic neuropathic pain, including cannabinoids and cannabis-based medical products.

Schlag AK, et al. The value of Real World Evidence: The case of medical cannabis.

Thurgur H, et al. Cannabis-based medicinal products (CBMPs) for the treatment of Long COVID symptoms: Current and potential applications.

Zafar R, et al. Medical cannabis for severe treatment resistant epilepsy in children: a case-series of 10 patients.

Drug Science (Report). Evaluating global medical cannabis regulatory regimes: Lessons to be learned for the UK.

For a full list of recent publications and to find out more about our Medical Cannabis Working Group, please see: https://www.drugscience.org.uk/medical-cannabis-working-group/

To join T21, please see here: <u>https://www.drugscience.org.uk/t21/</u>

Selected publications: Medical Psychedelics

McCrone P, et al, Cost-effectiveness of psilocybin-assisted therapy for severe depression: Exploratory findings from a decision analytics model.

Schlag AK, et al. Adverse effects of psychedelics: From anecdotes and misinformation to systematic science.

Spriggs MJ, et al. ARC: A framework for access, reciprocity and conduct in psychedelic therapies.

Zafar R, et al. Raising awareness: The implementation of medical cannabis and psychedelics used as an adjunct to standard therapy in the treatment of advance metastatic breast cancer.

Zafar R, et al., Psychedelic therapy in the treatment for addiction: the past, present and future.

Drug Science and Psilonautica (Report). Public attitudes to psilocybin-assisted therapy.

For a full list of recent publications and to find out more about Medical Psychedelics Working Group, please see here: <u>https://www.drugscience.org.uk/medical-psychedelics-working-group/</u>



Selected publications: Drug Policy and Regulation

Nutt DJ, et al. Drug harms in the UK: A multicriteria decision analysis.

Rogeberg O, et al. A new approach to formulating and appraising drug policy: A multi-criterion decision analysis applied to alcohol and cannabis regulations.

Rolles S, et al. A multi criteria decision analysis (MCDA) for evaluating and appraising government responses to non medical heroin use.

Schlag AK. Percentages of problem drug use and their implications for policy making: A review of the literature.

Szigeti B, et al. Bayesian analysis of real world data as evidence for drug approval: Remembering Sir Michael Rawlins.

Drug Science (Report). Reducing drug-related harms in Sandwell: The need and feasibility of an overdose prevention service.





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