

# 2022-2023 Annual Report



**BECKLEY**  
FOUNDATION





## About the Beckley Foundation

The Beckley Foundation is a charitable organisation set up by Amanda Feilding in 1998 to initiate and carry out pioneering research into the therapeutic potential of psychedelics, and to create a scientific base for global drug policy reform. The work of the Foundation relies entirely on donations.

## Our Mission

Our aim is to harness the power of science in order to integrate psychoactive substances into society as safe & effective tools to treat a broad range of health conditions and enhance wellbeing.

*“What we have done so far, is open the door. However, there is an immense wealth of knowledge to continue mining.” - Amanda Feilding*

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## TRUSTEES' REPORT FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2023

The Trustees of The Beckley Foundation are pleased to present their Annual Report and financial statements of the charity for the year ended 31 March 2023. The financial statements have been prepared in accordance with the accounting policies set out in note 1 to the accounts and comply with the charity's trust deed, the Charities and Trustee Investment (Scotland) Act 2005, the Charities Accounts (Scotland) Regulations 2006 (as amended) and Accounting and Reporting by Charities: Statement of Recommended Practice applicable to charities preparing their accounts in accordance with the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland.

### **Structure, governance, and management**

The Foundation is an unincorporated Charity established by Amanda Feilding under a Deed of Trust dated 20 September 2002.

It is registered with the Office of the Scottish Charity Regulator (Charity Number: SC033546).

The Foundation is managed and administered by the Trustees. At all times there shall be no less than three Trustees. Training is provided to new Trustees as required.

The following Trustees have held office since 1 April 2022:

Amanda Feilding or Charteris, Countess of Wemyss & March  
The Right Honourable James Donald Charteris, 12th Earl of Wemyss and 9th Earl of March  
The Hon Anthony Ramsay  
Dr Jose Lopez Portillo  
Omar A Fayed

### **Objectives and activities**

The objects of the Trust are exclusively charitable and are:

To advance the education of the public (by the support of studies, research, including scientific research, and educational activities or otherwise) in the knowledge of human consciousness (meaning the totality of the impressions, thoughts and feelings that make up a person's conscious being) generally and in particular but not exclusively the nature of human consciousness, in relation to human health, influences on human consciousness, changes in human consciousness, how such things can be and are brought about, the detection, monitoring and observation of human consciousness, changes thereto, and influences thereon, and the science (including the pharmacological, psychological, biochemical science) of human consciousness and all or any of the foregoing and other facets of human consciousness.

To promote the protection and preservation of public health through the advancement of the education of the public organisations in the knowledge and understanding (by the support of studies, research, including scientific research, and educational activities or otherwise) of drug policies and drug related issues.

In order to achieve these objectives, the Foundation's activities include organisation and directing research programmes and seminars in order to inform researchers, professionals, policy-makers and the public. There are three main sections of its work, namely: Science programmes, Policy programmes and Seminar programmes.

## MESSAGE FROM THE DIRECTOR

25 years ago this year, I made the decision to transform myself, from a woman with no letters after my name, to a foundation. Up until that point, I had spent decades trying to fight the prohibition on altered states of consciousness through art and political campaigns, but I had come to realise that only the very best science stood a chance to break through the oppressive wall of the War on Drugs.

For a long time, our work was thought of as fringe and dangerous, not to be taken seriously. But in time, the data we produced spoke for itself. We changed the minds of millions by conducting state of the art research, utilising the best methods and technologies to dig deep into the underlying mechanisms and potential uses of the amazing compounds I had already spent my life studying.

Now, after all this time, public opinion of psychedelics and altered states is at an all-time high for our culture. The Beckley Foundation has become among the most respected institutions in the game, standing behind a myriad of the first ground-breaking studies which inspired entire fields of researchers to follow suit.

It is not only in science, but also in the political sphere where our work has made significant contributions. We have witnessed significant strides in drug policy, including decriminalisation, legalisation, and medicalisation across multiple continents. Just recently, the UN officially shifted its stance towards harm reduction and human rights-based drug policies and away from prohibitionist criminalization.

I am so proud of how far we have come.

Simultaneously however, humanity faces the heavy costs of war, a growing mental health crisis, climate disasters, and economic struggles. We know that psychedelics have

the potential to help us heal society's trauma and guide it toward a better future. Thus, it's vital that we expedite our progress despite the remaining challenges and bureaucratic obstacles. Cutting-edge research is essential to break the enduring taboos hindering our progress.



I am therefore excited to be nearing a new era for the Beckley Foundation. Over the past few years, I have been carefully developing the Double-Headed Research Programme, focusing particularly on LSD in micro- and macrodoses. This is some of the most cutting-edge research we have ever conceived, exploring the underlying mechanisms of the psychedelic and mystical experience in the brain and their potential to restore mental health as we age. We are optimistic that four projects will commence in the first quarter of 2024, and several others are moving forward at a good pace.

The first project, in collaboration with Cornell University, will investigate the hypothesis that LSD and other psychedelics raise the floor of consciousness by constricting blood vessels,



leading to increased blood flow. Advanced imaging of the microvasculature will help us explore this effect.

At Basel University and with Brazilian collaborators, we will research LSD’s potential to support healthy aging through microdoses in elderly patients with Alzheimer’s and its effects on mitochondria, respectively. This represents a whole new avenue for psychedelic research which could produce a paradigm shift in the study of healthy ageing.

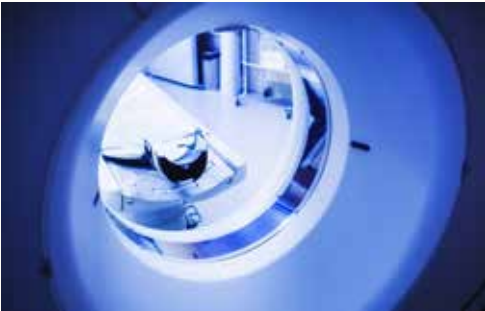
I am particularly thrilled about our study at UCL/King’s College London, where we will use state-of-the-art functional brain imaging technology (7-tesla fMRI) to investigate the neural correlates of the mystical experience, a key element in psychedelics’ therapeutic efficacy and many ancient sacred ceremonies. This high-precision scanner will provide unprecedented detail, allowing us to create

individualized brain portraits, and the methodology will allow us to expand into the study of myriad other psychedelically-induced mental phenomena, and thus transforming our understanding of these compounds and consciousness itself.

I want to express my deepest gratitude to the incredible collaborators I’ve assembled for these projects, including Professors Alex Kwan, Reto Kressig, Stevens Rehen, and Karl Friston, among others. I’m also thankful for the generous contributions and thoughtful advice from our recent trustee, Omar Fayed.

The upcoming period could be the most significant in Beckley Foundation history. We’ve spent years nurturing the seeds we planted, and now our work is beginning to yield remarkable fruit.

– *Amanda Feilding, Founder and Director*



## SCIENCE PROGRAMME UPDATES

### ***The Beckley/Maastricht Psychedelic Research Programme***

Set up in 2017, co-directed by Amanda Feilding and Prof Jan Ramaekers

Following up on our first lab-based microdosing study in healthy volunteers, our second microdosing study in collaboration with Maastricht University was completed last year, and the team has been analysing the results since. The main objective of this study was to investigate the effects of microdoses of LSD on human brain activity, neuroplasticity and cognitive functioning and also to assess the long-term effects of repeated microdosing (15 ug) over two weeks of twice-weekly LSD microdosing, i.e. 4 dosing sessions in total.

This study used EEG, blood tests, cognitive tasks and subjective measures to study the effects of LSD microdosing on neuroplasticity, learning, cognitive flexibility and mood. The first article, currently under peer review, will present interesting data showing the impact (both acute and prolonged) of LSD microdoses on electrical brain activity (measured with EEG), and how this relates to changes in cognitive functions.



More articles will follow, looking for instance at the relationship between neuroplasticity, mood and cognitive functions, or the impact of repeated doses on pain management.

### ***The Beckley/Brazil Psychedelic Research Programme***

Set up in 2017, co-directed by Amanda Feilding and Profs Sidarta Ribeiro and Stevens Rehen

#### *Research on LSD in humans*

In a randomized, double-blind, placebo-controlled, crossover study, 24 healthy participants received 50 µg LSD or inactive placebo.

This study continued producing more interesting results, presented below, shedding light on the effects of medium doses of LSD on creativity, mind wandering, cognition, language, and more.

## PROJECTS UNDER DEVELOPMENT

### ***Beckley/Cornell University Scientific Programme***

*How do psychedelics affect brain-microvasculature and to what extent does this impact brain function?*

In February 2021, Amanda approached Prof Alex Kwan, a renowned neuroscientist then working at Yale University, who specialises in the study of microcircuits in the frontal cortex of the brain using optical imaging techniques. Interested in her long-held hypothesis on the changes in brain capillary volume brought about by psychedelics, he introduced her to two of

his colleagues at Cornell University, where he has since relocated: Prof. Chris Schaffer and Prof. Nozomi Nishimura.

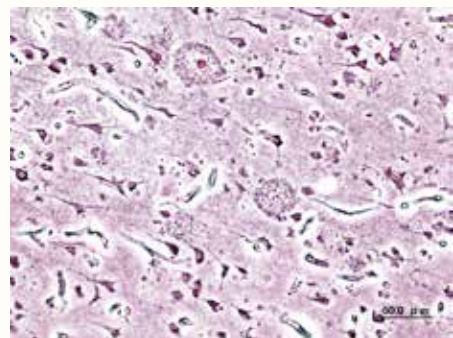
This trio of experts have agreed to collaborate with Amanda in order to research her hypothesis, with a particular focus on LSD, a compound Amanda consider as the 'Queen of Psychedelics', and on which the Beckley Foundation's new 'Double-Headed Programme' is focused. This study, which is the first to investigate the full impact that psychedelics have on the brain's micro-vasculature and blood supply, could revolutionise the way we understand the mechanisms of action of psychedelics, and open the doors to exciting new therapeutic and creative applications.

### ***Beckley Foundation/Basel University Collaboration***

*Could LSD prove to be an effective treatment for Alzheimer's disease?*

Last year, Amanda received the most astonishing report concerning a 97-year-old lady (SR) suffering from advanced dementia who had been temporarily 'brought back' to her previous level of vitality, wit and sense of self with a microdose of LSD. SR was diagnosed with Alzheimer's disease (AD) and vascular dementia 11 years earlier, at the age of 88. At 97, her condition deteriorated dramatically, to the point where her caregiver, with the agreement of her family, decided to investigate whether a microdose of LSD might help spring her out of her deep apathetic (almost vegetative) state.

While AD treatment strategies have largely focused on beta-amyloid and tau protein pathologies, the synapse itself may also be a critical endpoint to consider regarding disease modification. Research conducted as part of the Beckley/Brazil Psychedelic Research Programme has demonstrated the potential for psychedelics, particularly LSD, to increase the expression of proteins involved in the growth of new synapses and to enhance memory and exploratory behaviour in animals.



We are now developing in collaboration with researchers from Basel University the world's first controlled clinical trial to study the effects of microdosing LSD for the treatment of Alzheimer's Disease, with a particular focus on apathy, cognition, mood and quality-of-life, both in early and more advanced stages of the disease.

This study will allow us to assess the various ways in which microdoses of LSD might benefit people suffering from AD and mild cognitive impairment, and pave the way to the development of new treatments for dementia, neurodegenerative illnesses, and palliative care.

### ***Beckley/Brazil Fellowship***

In 2020, Amanda Feilding set up the Beckley/Brazil Fellowship, awarding £24,000 to two research projects. In November 2021 we received the final report with the findings of the research funded by the Fellowship, a summary of which is detailed below:

### *Project 1: Effect of lysergic acid diethylamide on neuroinflammation*

After technical refinements, they have established and validated a feasible model of neuroinflammation using human neurospheres that recapitulates the cytokine release observed in brain inflammation. LSD was tested in this model and showed a modulatory activity on inflammatory cytokine release comparable to the anti-inflammatory drug Ibuprofen. These results open a promising strategy to further investigate the anti-inflammatory potential of LSD, associated with brain inflammation, in diseases such as depression, Alzheimer's, and other neurodegenerative conditions.

### *Project 2: Effect of lysergic acid diethylamide on longevity*

The results obtained in this project suggest that *C. elegans* is a valuable model to study the effects of psychedelics. In the last few months, we were able to successfully measure LSD inside the animals by LC-MS/MS and start lifespan experiments that suggest a possible effect of LSD on longevity.

The next step of this research is to study aging-related diseases. Besides lifespan, we are interested in understanding whether LSD has an impact not only on extending lifespan but also on promoting health span. We are now setting up experiments in *C. elegans* to evaluate whether LSD can prevent damage caused by an external insult such as oxidative stress.

### ***Beckley/King's***

*What is happening inside the brain of someone undergoing a profound and life-changing mystical experience?*

This project will leverage recent developments in precision neuroimaging to produce the first ever personalised brain images of individuals undergoing an LSD-induced mystical experience. A better understanding of the subtle changes of brain states coinciding with the deep existential and transformational insights induced by LSD will significantly inform the neurobiology of consciousness and its expanded states, and improve our understanding of how this compound may be used as a tool for both personal growth and therapy.

### **Longevity Grant Application**

Amanda collaborated with Prof Stevens Rehen in order to submit a grant application to the Longevity Research Fund, for the project entitled: Exploring the Potential of LSD as a Therapeutic Approach for Longevity Through Mitochondrial Function Assessment in iPS-derived Brain Cells from Alzheimer Disease patients.

Our project will build on our previous and original research (from Stevens Rehen's lab), utilizing iPS-derived brain cells as a model to study the effects of LSD on mitochondrial function. This approach offers a unique advantage in that it allows for a more precise and physiologically relevant examination of these effects in human-derived cells, which can provide more applicable and translatable results compared to other models.

We will only find out at the end of December 2023 if we are being considered for funding.



***Beckley/Brazil***

[Low-dose LSD and the stream of thought: Increased Discontinuity of Mind, Deep Thoughts and abstract flow, June 2022, Psychopharmacology \(Berl\)](#)

*Wießner I, Falchi M, Palhano-Fontes F, Oliveira Maia L, Feilding A, Ribeiro S, Bezerra Mota N, Araujo DB, Tófoli LF.*

Stream of thought describes the nature of the mind when it is freely roaming, a mental state that is continuous and highly dynamic as in mind-wandering or free association. Classic serotonergic psychedelics are known to profoundly impact perception, cognition and language, yet their influence on the stream of thought remains largely unexplored.

In a randomized, double-blind, placebo-controlled, crossover study, 24 healthy participants received 50 µg LSD or inactive placebo. Mind-wandering and free association were assessed at +0 h, +2 h, +4 h, +6 h, +8 h and +24 h after drug administration. LSD, compared to placebo, induced different facets of mind-wandering we conceptualized as “chaos” (Discontinuity of Mind, decreased Sleepiness, Planning, Thoughts under Control, Thoughts about Work and Thoughts about Past), “meaning” (Deep Thoughts, Not Sharing Thoughts) and “sensation” (Thoughts about Odours, Thoughts about Sounds). LSD increased free association for abstract words reflecting an “abstract flow”.

LSD affects the stream of thought within several levels (active, passive), facets (chaos, meaning, sensation, abstractness) and time points (from +2 h to +6 h). Increased chaos, meaning and abstract flow at +4 h indicate the utility of a late therapeutic window in psycholytic therapy.

[LSD, afterglow and hangover: Increased episodic memory and verbal fluency, decreased cognitive flexibility, May 2022, Eur Neuropsychopharmacol](#)

*Isabel Wießner, Rodolfo Olivieri, Marcelo Falchi, Fernanda Palhano-Fontes, Lucas Oliveira Maia, Amanda Feilding, Draulio B Araujo, Sidarta Ribeiro, Luís Fernando Tófoli*

Psychedelics acutely impair cognitive functions, but these impairments decline with growing experiences with psychedelics, and microdoses may even exert opposing effects. Given the recent evidence that psychedelics induce neuroplasticity, this explorative study aimed at investigating the potential of psychedelics to sub-acutely change cognition. For this, we applied a randomized, double-blind, placebo-controlled, crossover study with 24 healthy volunteers receiving 50 µg lysergic acid diethylamide (LSD) or an inactive placebo. Sub-acute changes in cognition were measured 24 h after dosing, including memory, verbal fluency, design fluency, cognitive, sustained and switching attention, inhibitory control and perceptual reasoning. The results show that when compared to placebo and corrected for Body Mass Index (BMI) and abstinence period from psychedelics, LSD sub-acutely improved visuospatial and phonological verbal fluency and impaired cognitive flexibility. In conclusion, the low dose of LSD moderately induced both “afterglow” and “hangover”. The improvements in visuospatial memory and phonological fluency suggest that LSD-assisted therapy should be explored as a novel treatment perspective in conditions involving memory and language declines such as brain injury, stroke or dementia.

[LSD, madness and healing: Mystical experiences as possible link between psychosis model and therapy model](#), **March 2023, Psychol Med**

*Isabel Wießner, Marcelo Falchi, Fernanda Palhano-Fontes, Amanda Feilding, Sidarta Ribeiro, Luís Fernando Tófoli*

For a century, psychedelics have been investigated as models of psychosis for demonstrating phenomenological similarities with psychotic experiences and as therapeutic models for treating depression, anxiety, and substance use disorders. This study sought to explore this paradoxical relationship connecting key parameters of the psychotic experience, psychotherapy, and psychedelic experience. In a randomized, double-blind, placebo-controlled, crossover design, 24 healthy volunteers received 50 µg d-lysergic acid diethylamide (LSD) or inactive placebo. LSD induced psychedelic experiences, including alteration of consciousness, mystical experiences, ego-dissolution, and mildly challenging experiences, increased aberrant salience and suggestibility.

The LSD state resembles a psychotic experience and offers a tool for healing. The link between psychosis model and therapeutic model seems to lie in mystical experiences. The results point to the importance of meaning attribution for the LSD psychosis model and indicate that psychedelic-assisted therapy might benefit from therapeutic suggestions fostering mystical experiences.

[LSD and language: Decreased structural connectivity, increased semantic similarity, changed vocabulary in healthy individuals](#), **March 2023, Eur Neuropsychopharmacol**.

*Wießner I, Falchi M, Daldegan-Bueno D, Palhano-Fontes F, Olivieri R, Feilding A, B Araujo D, Ribeiro S, Bezerra Mota N, Tófoli LF.*

Language has been explored as a window into the mind. Psychedelics, known to affect perception and cognition, seem to change language, but a systematic, time-dependent exploration is lacking. Therefore, we aimed at mapping the psychedelic effects on language over the time course of the acute and sub-acute effects in an explorative manner. For this, 24 healthy volunteers received 50 µg lysergic acid diethylamide (LSD) or inactive placebo in a randomized, double-blind, placebo-controlled, crossover study. We assessed different language productions (experience reporting, storytelling), components (structure, semantics, vocabulary) and time points (+0 h to +24 h). LSD, compared to placebo, changed language structure, including decreased verbosity, lexicon, global and local connectivity (+1.5 h to +4 h); decreased semantic distances between neighbouring words and overall words (+2 h to +24 h); and changed vocabulary related to grammar, persons, time, space and biological processes (+1.5 h to +24 h). Low to moderate LSD doses changed language over diverse production types, components and



time points. Language under LSD might provide a window into the psychedelic mind and automated language quantifications should be better explored as valuable tools to yield more unconstrained insights into psychedelic perception and cognition.

[Nootropic effects of LSD: Behavioral, molecular and computational evidence](#), (2022), **Experimental Neurology**,

*Isis M Ornelas, Felipe A Cini, Isabel Wießner, Encarni Marcos, Dráulio de Araújo, Livia Goto-Silva, Juliana Nascimento, Sergio R B Silva, Marcelo N Costa, Marcelo Falchi, Rodolfo Olivieri, Fernanda Palhano-Fontes, Eduardo Sequerra, Daniel Martins-de-Souza, Amanda Feilding, César Rennó-Costa, Luis Fernando Tófoli, Stevens K Rehen, Sidarta Ribeiro.*

[LSD and creativity: Increased novelty and symbolic thinking, decreased utility and convergent thinking](#), (2022), **J. Psychopharmacology**,

*Isabel Wiessner, Marcelo Falchi, Lucias Oliveira Maia, Dimitri Daldegan-Bueno, Fernanda Palhano-Fontes, Natasha L Mason, Johannes G Ramaekers, Madeleine E Gross, Jonathan W Schooler, Amanda Feilding, Sidarta Ribeiro, Draulio B Araujo, Luis Fernando Tofoli*

### **Beckley/Maastricht**

[Analgesic potential of microdoses and microdoses of classical psychedelics in chronic pain sufferers: a population survey](#), Dec 2022, **British Journal of Pain**

*Valerie Bonnelle, Will J Smith, Natasha L Mason, Mauro Cavarra, Pamela Kryskow, Kim Pc Kuypers, Johannes G Ramaekers, Amanda Feilding*

Here, we report results from an online survey initiated and led by the Beckley Foundation, conducted between August 2020 and July 2021 in a population of 250 chronic pain sufferers who had experience with psychedelics, either in microdoses (small sub-hallucinogenic doses), macrodoses (hallucinogenic doses), or both. Macrodoses, while less often used for analgesic purposes than microdoses, were reported to induce a higher level of pain relief than both microdoses and conventional pain medications (including opioids and cannabis). Although the effects were weaker and potentially more prone to expectation bias than with macrodoses, our results also suggested some benefits of psychedelics in microdoses for pain management. The reported analgesic effect appeared unrelated to mood improvements associated with psychedelic use, or the advocacy of psychedelic use. Taken together, our findings indicate interesting potential analgesic applications for psychedelics that warrant further clinical research.

### **Beckley/Imperial College**

[Cortical Correlates of Psychedelic-Induced Shaking Behavior Revealed by Voltage Imaging](#), **Molecular Sciences, 2023**.

*Tobias Buchborn, Taylor Lyons, Chenchen Song, Amanda Feilding, Thomas Knöpfel.*



## EVENTS/CONFERENCES

**2022/2023** welcomed a busy conference season, after nearly two years of cancelled events and virtual alternatives.

May saw the first-ever Medical Psychedelic House of Davos, which coincided with the World Economic Forum in Davos, Switzerland. Amanda joined Deepak Chopra and Julia Mande for the acclaimed panel discussion '[Catalysing Consciousness](#)' which celebrated the overcoming of the taboo on consciousness, and was a resounding success.

### **11th May 2022: Psych Symposium**

This was followed by the [PSYCH Symposium](#), held at the National Gallery in London, where Amanda and her son, Cosmo Feilding-Mellen (CEO of Beckley Psytech) discussed the psychedelic renaissance and the industry's transformation since the psychedelic research of the 60s.



In July 2022, Amanda attended Breaking Convention, for a day of discussions centred around the current tension points in the psychedelic community. She joined the panel discussion 'Money and Meaning', speaking about psychedelic capitalism, mainstreaming, and different models of reciprocity and ethical funding; as well as talking to fellow psychedelic luminaries Rick Doblin, Merlin Sheldrake, Robin-Carhart-Harris, and Maria Papaspyrou in order to bring the day to a close.

### **22-25th September: ICPR Conference Haarlem - The Netherlands**

In September, Amanda and the Beckley Foundation team attended the *Interdisciplinary Conference on Psychedelic Research (ICPR) 2022* as Gold Sponsors. Amanda presented the Beckley Foundation's new *Double-Headed Research Programme*, and laid out the theoretical underpinnings of new research into the effects of psychedelics on brain blood flow, and a case study that led her to design a clinical study investigating the therapeutic potential of LSD microdosing on Alzheimer's Disease. [Her talk](#) was widely praised and she received a standing ovation.

### **6th November WEDO awards, UN - New York**

To top off a successful year, in November, Amanda was honoured with the Science Pioneer award at the [Women's Entrepreneurship Day Organization](#) summit held at the United Nations. Recognised as one of the US' most prestigious awards for women by both Houses of the United States Congress, Amanda's contributions to psychedelic science will be placed in the [Congressional Record](#).



### **April 2023 Breaking Convention – Exeter, UK**

*"Amanda's work has been visionary and her warm-hearted effectiveness in building productive collaborations within the domains of science and drug policy has been remarkable. I feel honoured to consider both a colleague and a friend."*

Prof Roland Griffiths – Professor in the Neuropsychopharmacology of Consciousness  
Director, Center for Psychedelic and Consciousness Research  
Departments of Psychiatry and Neuroscience  
Johns Hopkins University School of Medicine

## MEDIA

Amanda Feilding's birthday brought heartwarming wishes from collaborators and friends, and the Beckley Foundation itself reached its landmark 25th anniversary whilst exciting drug policy changes swept the globe. All the while, Amanda has been busier than ever continuing to spread the word further with amazing events, articles, and podcasts. Bloomberg, VICE, the Economist, Business Insider and Double-Blind Magazine, among many others, had Amanda sharing her thoughts on the changing landscape of psychedelic science, and announcing research projects in the pipeline. The most important feature article of the year took place in April 2023 in the Financial Times. Beatrice Hodgkin visited Amanda at Beckley in the Spring, and wrote beautifully about Amanda's legacy and the influence of her beloved home, Beckley Park, on her journey to becoming the "First Lady of LSD."

## PRESS

- 14th June 2022 – *Psychedelics Finance*: [Spotlight Amanda Feilding](#)
- 5th July 2022 – *Tiffany Kary – Bloomberg*: [Death Doulas and Brain Scans Herald Next Stage of LSD Research](#)
- 22nd August 2022 – *David Hillier, VICE*: [Does Microdosing Actually Work? The Science is still conflicted](#)
- 21st September 2022 – *Natasha Loder, The Economist*: [Ketamine, psilocybin and ecstasy are coming to the medicine cabinet](#)
- 21st November 2022 – *Lara Goldstein – Benzinga*: [LSD Research Ramps Up](#)
- 16th November 2022 – *Yeji Lee – Business Insider*: [100 People Transforming Business](#)
- 23rd November 2022 – *Thomas Edward – High Times*: [Beckley Foundation Announces LSD, Microdosing Research](#)
- 27th January 2023 – *Sophie Bengel - Country and Town Magazine*: [Tripping with Truffles](#)
- 30th January 2023 – *Mattha Busby - DoubleBlind Magazine*: [Psychedelic Legend Amanda Feilding is Turning 80—And Her Retreats are Open for Business](#)
- 17th April 2023 – *Mick O'Hare – The New European*: [The 'Queen of Consciousness' on 80 years of LSD](#)
- 28th April 2023 – *Beatrice Hodgkin – The Financial Times*: [Amanda Feilding, The First Lady of LSD](#)

*"Feilding, a gently statuesque figure who marries scientific intensity with bohemian romance, remains restless for continued progress, and claims to dedicate 15-hour days to her cause. It's easy to believe."*

*– Beatrice Hodgkin, The Financial Times*

## PODCASTS & TV

- 6th June 2022 – [Positively Gotham Gal](#)
- 2nd June 2022: *Ethan Nadelmann - PSYCHOACTIVE*: [Lady Amanda Feilding speaks to Ethan Nadelmann about Psychedelics Research and Being Loyal to LSD](#)
- 5th January 2023 – *Jeffrey Mishlove - New Thinking Allowed*: [The Psychedelic Renaissance Amanda Feilding with Jeffrey Mishlove](#)
- 3rd April 2023 – *Katherine Rowland – Seeking*: [Psychedelic science is booming and it's thanks in large part to a British Countess named Amanda Feilding, aka Lady Mindbender](#)
- 7th April 2023 – *Marie Abett - Temps Présent Radio Television Suisse*: [Dépression, addiction, guérir grâce aux psychédéliques](#)



Matt Barnes for Inside

**BUSINESS INSIDER**

HEALTHCARE

**Amanda Feilding**

Executive Director and Founder, Beckley Psytech & Beckley Foundation



**The Economist**

**VICE**





## FUNDRAISING

We are thrilled about this exciting milestone in our journey: our 25th year anniversary. Over the past quarter-century, we have achieved remarkable progress in expanding our understanding of the life-changing potential of psychedelics. Contributions from those interested in our work have played an instrumental role in our success, and we are immensely grateful for your support.

Most of our fundraising efforts in the past year have gone into trying to secure funding for the *Double-Headed Scientific Research Programme* in order to carry out a series of pioneering studies that could transform our understanding of the mechanisms behind psychedelics, and lead to improved mental health treatments and end-of-life support. But we also continue to pursue funding to cover our day-to-day operational costs, including staffing, infrastructure, and essential resources. Unrestricted funding ensures the smooth functioning of our organisation, allowing us to deliver our programs, sustain our initiatives, and make a lasting impact.

To that end we continue to look after our followers and supporters, and continue to grow our subscribers by keeping our content fresh, sending informative newsletters, and by creating new platforms in order to attract donations. We continue to use the Giving Block, Facebook Giving, and Enthuse, as well as Donorbox and PayPal.

We also continue to work with Long & Elgar, who provide PR support to Amanda and the foundation.

## THANKS TO OUR FUNDERS

We are incredibly grateful to our funders this year. Without their support and generous contributions, we could not be able to continue the important work that we do. This year, we received donations from new funders such as Leafy Tunnel. We were also the chosen charity of loyal, long-term supporters, such as the Betsy Gordon Foundation us, Beckley Psytech Corporate Responsibility Strategy, and a number of individuals who, through Donorbox, continue to support us with modest, but important, one-off and monthly donations. We would also like to give a special mention to Modal Wines, Paraiso Creations and Desislava Eneva who set up fundraisers on behalf of the Beckley Foundation, and donated the proceeds.

The Beckley Foundation also supported deserving charities, such as the McKenna Academy and Wounded Veterans in London.

## STAFF AND DIVERSITY

In order to meet the challenges of the times and to give our team more flexibility in the way we work, our employees have for the first time been given the opportunity to work remotely, hybrid, part-time and full-time. This has brought in advantages and challenges to the way we work, but we have put new operational systems in place to increase the communication among employees, as well as finding the time for everybody in the team to work closely with Amanda.

In April 2023, the Beckley Foundation applied for a Sponsorship License to be able to hire skilled individuals from outside the UK, such as the European Union, and elsewhere. We had not been able to find the right candidate for the position of Scientific Officer, and Dr Irene de Caso, a Spanish National, applied for a highly skilled worker visa to work at the foundation. After a successful application to the Home Office, we were granted the paperwork required to be able to hire Dr De Caso.

The Beckley Foundation is committed to encouraging equality, diversity and inclusion among our workforce, and eliminating unlawful discrimination. The aim is for our workforce to be truly representative of all sections of society, and for each employee to feel respected and able to give their best.

### **Below we enclose a full list of our employees during 2022-2023:**

#### **Full-time:**

Amanda Feilding, *Executive Director*

Vivian Kear, *Operations Manager*

Gunnar Gronlid, *Personal Assistant & Researcher*

Jon Sharp, *Science and Communications Officer (until March 2023)*

Dr Irene de Caso - *Scientific Assistant to the Director (from April 2023)*

#### **Part-time:**

Dr Valerie Bonnelle, *Scientific Assistant to the Director* - Full time until August 2022/3 days a week- **(Hybrid from September 2022)**

Sasha Frost, *Communications and Content Manager* - 2 days - Remote

Dr William Smith, *Scientific Assistant and Researcher* - 3 days **(finished in Feb 2023)**

#### **Freelance:**

Matias Lopez-Portillo Garcia-Lopez, *Development Officer* - 1 day – Free lance

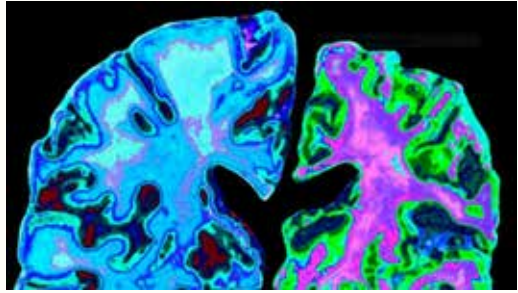


## PLANS FOR THE FUTURE

Amanda and the team have been concentrating on carefully developing the protocols and formalising the research agreements and funding for three studies from the Double-Headed Research Programme, a program designed to unlock the mysteries and potential of LSD through scientific enquiry, using clinical, neuroimaging and molecular research.

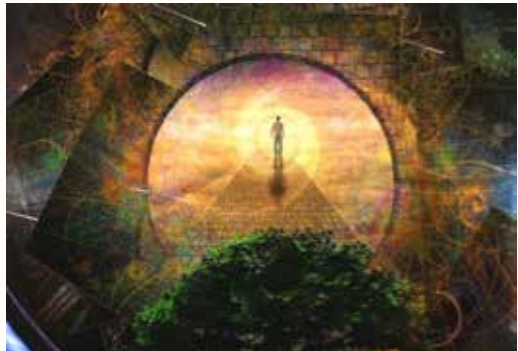
Three of these studies will be ready to be launched by the first quarter of 2024.

**Basel University**, which will research the safety and potential benefits that LSD microdosing could have for improving the quality of life in people suffering from Alzheimer's. Funding for this project has already been secured, thanks to Amanda's fundraising efforts. The protocol for this study has now been developed, and we hope that it will be submitted to the ethics committee as soon as the negotiations surrounding the research agreement are settled. We expect this



will occur by the first quarter of 2024. Obtaining ethical approval shall take approximately three months, and since this study will be conducted in Switzerland, the GMP Lysergic acid diethylamide needed for this study will be sourced from Lipomed Pharmaceuticals, saving us from having to undergo a lengthy and costly bureaucratic process to obtain an import license. Thus, we aim to be running our first participants by the second quarter of 2024.

**King's College London and UCL**, looking at the Neuronal Correlates of the Mystical Experience. The GMP LSD for this study will be sourced from Alembic Pharmaceuticals, a company based in India. The bureaucratic process for importing the compound is already underway and King's College London has recently accepted to sponsor this study. The legal agreement between King's College London and the Beckley Foundation is currently being negotiated, and the protocol is in the process of being finalised.



Ethical approval will be submitted as soon as the research contract is signed by both parties, which should occur in the fourth quarter of 2023. Ethical approval and importing of the GMP LSD will therefore be running in parallel, aiming to begin the data collection process by the second quarter of 2024. Amanda has already managed to raise approximately 80% of the budget for this project and will soon be launching a campaign to fundraise the remaining part.

**Cornell University**. The negotiations for the research agreement are underway, and Amanda hopes to be able to secure the funding necessary for the study once the legal agreement is signed. The protocol is ready for ethics submission and the two branches from this study (i.e., the study of blood flow and of neurovascular coupling), which were originally planned to run sequentially, will now be run in parallel, shortening the time it will take for the results to be ready from 2 years to just 1 year.





Since this study will work with animals, GMP LSD is not required. Non-GMP LSD will be sourced within the United States to avoid the need to obtain an import license. We are currently studying potential suppliers. The research agreement shall be signed before the end of 2023 and data collection shall begin on the second quarter of 2024.

In addition to these three projects, which are nearly ready to be launched, we have also been working on other future projects.

During the summer of 2023 the Beckley Foundation has, in collaboration with researchers from the D'Or Institute in Brazil, developed an experimental design to study the effects of LSD in healthy longevity and in Alzheimer's Disease using an *in vitro* approach. In October 2023 we will submit a grant application for this study to the Longevity Foundation which we hope will be positive. Hopefully our study will be selected, and we will begin data collection by the second quarter of 2024.

Lastly, Amanda has become more and more interested in the potential of LSD microdosing to help people in the Autistic Spectrum Disorder. During this time, and with the help of Aaron Orsini as our advisor, we have been developing a research proposal for a clinical trial. Amanda is currently searching for potential collaborators for this study and are aiming to raise the necessary funds to carry it out in our upcoming fundraising campaign.

It is important to highlight one of Amanda's most ambitious projects: the implementation of a research centre inside a carefully designed care home setting. The aim of this idea is to accelerate the study of the therapeutic potential of LSD microdosing's potential in patients suffering from Alzheimer's Disease, as well as from other neurodegenerative diseases, studying its potential in the optimal setting. Despite the excessive red tape surrounding the potential to set up such a care home, Amanda has been speaking to numerous experts, carefully studying the potential avenues for obtaining permission to carry out such an ambitious project. We are currently developing a strategy to contact the most relevant and influential people who could help us make this care home a reality.



## FINANCIAL REVIEW

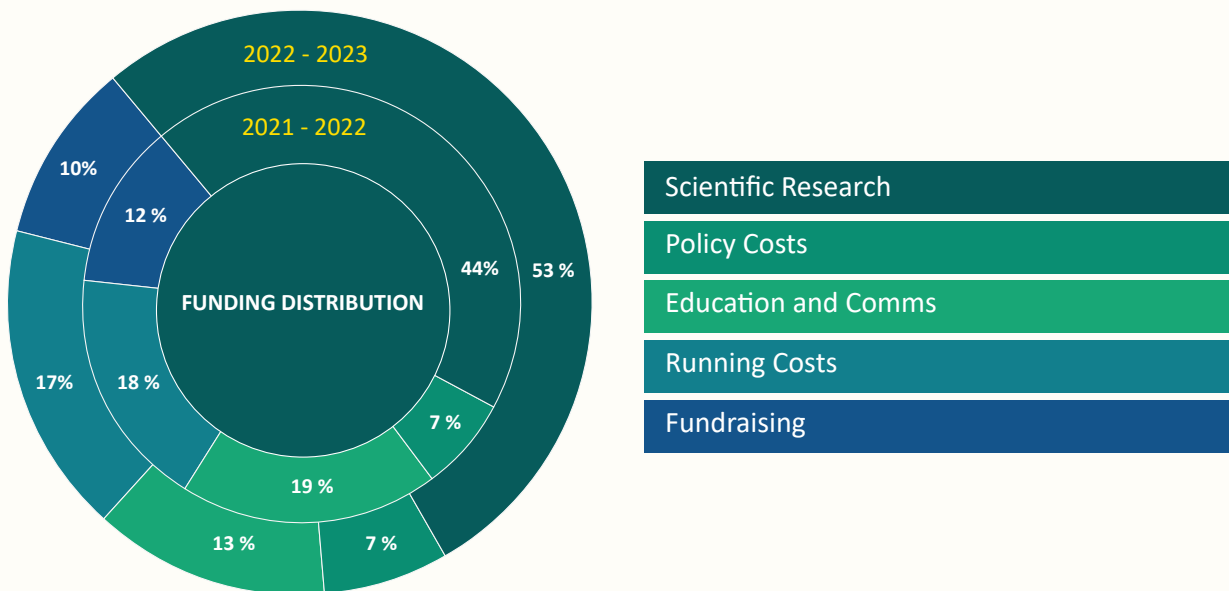
### Risk management

The trustees have a risk management strategy which comprises a regular review of the principal risks and uncertainties that the charity faces, the establishment of policies, systems and procedures to mitigate those risks identified, and the implementation of procedures designed to minimise or manage any potential impact on the charity should those risks materialise.

This work has identified that financial sustainability is the major financial risk for the charity. A key element in the management of financial risk is a regular review of available liquid funds to settle debts as they fall due to ensure sufficient working capital is maintained.

### Going concern

The trustees have no material uncertainties as to the Foundation's ability to continue as a going concern.



## OFFICERS AND ADMINISTRATION

<b>Trustees</b>	Amanda Feilding or Charteris, Countess of Wemyss & March The Right Honourable James Donald Charteris, 12th Earl of Wemyss and 9th Earl of March The Hon Anthony Ramsay Dr Jose Lopez Portillo Omar A Fayed
<b>Secretary</b>	Amanda Feilding or Charteris, Countess of Wemyss & March
<b>Charity number</b>	SC033546
<b>Registered office</b>	Beckley Park Oxford OX3 9SY
<b>Independent examiner</b>	Kenneth McDowell CA Saffery Champness LLP Edinburgh Quay 133 Fountainbridge Edinburgh EH3 9BA
<b>Bankers</b>	Bank of Scotland plc Bank Buildings Gullane EB31 2AR



## **Trustees' responsibilities in relation to the financial statements**

The charity trustees are responsible for preparing a trustees' annual report and financial statements in accordance with applicable law and United Kingdom Accounting Standards (United Kingdom Generally Accepted Accounting Practice).

The law applicable to charities in Scotland requires the charity trustees to prepare financial statements for each year which give a true and fair view of the state of affairs of the charity and of the incoming resources and application of resources of the charity for that period. In preparing the financial statements, the trustees are required to:

- select suitable accounting policies and apply them consistently;
- observe the methods and principles in the Charities SORP (FRS102);
- make judgements and estimates that are reasonable and prudent;
- state whether applicable accounting standards have been followed, subject to any material departures disclosed and explained in the financial statements; and
- prepare the financial statements on the going concern basis unless it is inappropriate to presume that the charity will continue in operation.


The trustees are responsible for keeping proper accounting records, that disclose with reasonable accuracy at any time the financial position of the charity and enable them to ensure that the financial statements, comply with the Charities and Trustee Investment (Scotland) Act 2005, the Charities Accounts (Scotland) Regulations 2006 (as amended), and the provisions of the Trust Deed. They are also responsible for safeguarding the assets of the charity and hence for taking reasonable steps for the prevention and detection of fraud and other irregularities.

On behalf of the Trustees

Amanda Feilding or Charteris, Countess of Wemyss & March

Chairperson

*Amanda Feilding, Countess of Wemyss* 2023



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The Beckley Foundation is UK registered charity, N° SC033546