JLS Fund Report

A Psytech Venture Fund

VOL. 2, 2022

JLS Fund Report

VOL. 2, 2022

Health Insurance Companies are Starting to Cover Psychedelic-Assisted Psychotherapy Treatments

Last year, we got word that Novamind (a company that provides ketamine-assisted psychotherapy treatments) was successful in obtaining approval for direct billing of ketamine therapy for treatment-resistant depression from four healthcare insurance companies: MBA Benefit Administrators, PEHP Health & Benefits, University of Utah, and Blue Cross Blue Shield.

This was a pretty big deal, and likely didn't get the attention it deserved.

While the obstacles of FDA-clinical trials are not trivial, getting the major insurance companies to cover psychedelics-assisted therapy will not become ubiquitous unless the major insurance companies realize the financial benefits. It's just the nature of the business.

Yes, the commercials may create an image of altruistic endeavors and feel-good moments, but these companies are not charities, and if something doesn't pencil out in their favor, it's not going to get approval.

This isn't necessarily a criticism, but instead, merely an observation of truth.

And in the case of psychedelics, this may prove to be a good thing.

In early March, the Global Initiative for Psychedelic Science Economics published a report entitled: "The Costs and Health Benefits of Expanded Access to MDMA-assisted Therapy for Chronic and Severe PTSD in the United States."

As reported by the study's authors, expanding access to MDMA-assisted therapy (MDMA-AT) to 25–75% of eligible patients over 10 years would avert between 43,618–106,932 deaths, produce 3.3 to 8.2 million discounted quality of adjusted life years (QALY), and lead to $109 billion to $266 billion in discounted savings for the healthcare system, with the MDMA-AT breaking even on cost at 3.8 years.

According to lead author Ellio Marseille, MDMA-AT is not only cost-effective, but also cost-saving, telling psychedelics analyst Zach Haigney ...

> "You get tremendous health benefits and it saves the payer money. It is what we call a 'dominating option' in my trade. Compared with the standard of care, it both provides more benefit and it costs less money."

You can access the study's results here:
https://link.springer.com/article/10.1007/s40261-022-01122-0

JLS Fund: Investments and Advisories

Psilera Strengthens Management Team with Computational Chemistry Expert

Psilera has officially named Dr. Daniel Santiago, Ph.D. as the Director and Head of the company's Chemistry Department, where he will lead the computational chemistry division, which is responsible for the discovery of new therapies for the treatment of CNS disorders.

Dr. Santiago's extensive background in computational chemistry, informatics, and machine learning will add significant new capabilities in the company's mission to create safer and more effective CNS medications. His previous work at The Scripps Research Institute and Moffitt Cancer Center is bolstered by an extensive educational background with degrees in Computational Biology and Bioinformatics, Mathematics, and a Ph.D. in Chemistry.

Psilera currently utilizes several leading software platforms (Schrodinger, Autodock, etc.) to virtually screen drugs and has also embarked on ground-breaking molecular dynamic simulations. Psilera's method of leveraging real world evidence and experimental data has been biologically validated with its lead compound PSIL-002. These tools will help Psilera identify next-generation CNS drugs with reduced side effects and targeted efficacy towards mood, cognitive, and substance use disorders.

Here's what Co-Founder and CEO Dr. Chris Witowski had to say ...

> "We are thrilled to welcome Dr. Santiago to the team as his unique perspective can reshape the future of what drug discovery can achieve and his contagious enthusiasm energizes our team. We've already made tremendous progress on our platform which allows us to greatly accelerate the drug discovery process and uncover promising leads to advance our pipeline."

In other news out of the Psilera camp, Co-Founder and CEO Dr. Jackie von Salm recently appeared at the Wall Street Journal Health Forum where she was interviewed during the session entitled, "Taking Psychedelics Mainstream."

You can watch her appearance here:
https://wsjhealthforum.eventfinity.co/libraries/346698#top

Gilgamesh Announces Clinical Candidates for Two Programs with First Human Dosing to Begin this Year

Gilgamesh announced last week the nomination of two lead clinical candidates for the treatment of debilitating neuropsychiatric disorders such as depression, anxiety, PTSD, and substance use disorders.

The first clinical candidate, GM1020, is an orally bioavailable non-competitive N-Methyl-D-aspartate receptor antagonist with the potential for rapid and sustained antidepressant activity. GM1020 is expected to have a favorable side effect profile allowing for potential at-home use.

The second clinical candidate, GM2505, is a novel rapid short-acting 5HT2A agonist and 5HT releaser that is expected to have a rapid therapeutic effect in a wide spectrum of psychiatric disorders that includes properties of both the classic psychedelic DMT and the empathogen MDMA. GM2505's optimized pharmacokinetic profile allows for convenient and cost-effective treatment. GM1020 and GM2505 will soon complete IND enabling toxicology studies with Phase 1 trials expected to begin in the second half of 2022.

Also worth noting is a new partnership Gilgamesh just announced with Columbia University to investigate and develop its extensive library of ibogaine analogs. Gilgamesh will continue characterizing these compounds and plans to nominate a lead candidate with improved potency and cardiovascular safety profile later in 2022.

Following the announcement, CEO and Co-Founder Dr. Jonathan Sporn put out the following statement ...

> "We have made significant strides with our lead programs, generated and filed new IP, built a world-class team, and established key academic partnerships with Harvard and NYU that will serve as the core of our scientific platform. Gilgamesh has a uniquely innovative pipeline of novel and transformational medicines that will improve the lives of people with debilitating neuropsychiatric disorders."

Research Highlights

Direct Comparison of the Acute Effects of LSD and Psilocybin in a Double-Blind Placebo-Controlled Study in Healthy Subjects:
https://www.nature.com/articles/s41386-022-01297-2

The Use of Psilocybin in the Treatment of Psychiatric Disorders with Attention to Relative Safety Profile: A Systematic Review:
https://www.tandfonline.com/doi/full/10.1080/02791072.2022.2044096

MDMA-Assisted Therapy Significantly Reduces Eating Disorder Symptoms in a Randomized Placebo-Controlled Trial of Adults with Severe PTSD:
https://www.sciencedirect.com/science/article/pii/S0022395622001303

Can Psilocybin be Safely Administered Under Medical Supervision? A Systematic Review of Adverse Event Reporting in Clinical Trials:
https://journals.sagepub.com/doi/full/10.1177/20503245221085222#.YjtY4w1Z818

Repeated LSD Reverses Stress-Induced Anxiety-Like Behavior, Cortical Synaptogenesis Deficits and Serotonergic Neurotransmission Decline:
https://www.nature.com/articles/s41386-022-01301-9

Who is JLS?

JLS was formed to invest in the exciting intersection of science, technology and neurology, leveraging the enormous potential of plant-based and psychedelic medicines to heal illness and enhance wellness. We focus on the development of drugs for intractable mental and physical conditions and enabling technology and tools that can accelerate and enhance the delivery of those therapies.

CONTACT US

If you have any questions or would like to set up a call to discuss our progress, learn more about any of these companies or increase your investment into the fund, feel free to contact us at news@jls.fund.

For those of you who have not invested with us yet, you can reach us by filling out our inquiry form.