



Larry Leeman MD MPH: MAT-POD principal investigator and MDMA therapist is a family physician with specialized training in maternal child health, addiction medicine and psychedelic assisted therapy.

“At the University of New Mexico, I direct the Milagro Perinatal Substance Use Program and the Zia Newborn nursery which specializes in the care of newborns with special needs such as opioid exposure during pregnancy. Through my work with Milagro and as a physician who delivers babies and cares for their newborns, I have been part of the medical care team for thousands of women with opioid use disorder and their babies. I have seen a high rate of resumption of opioid use after childbirth and see the untreated PTSD that is so common among pregnant people with opioid addiction to be a core factor in the resumption of use. I received training as an MDMA trauma therapist and researcher to study the hypothesis that MDMA assisted therapy for postpartum people with PTSD would have benefit in decreasing the likelihood of postpartum resumption of opioid use. MDMA assisted therapy has the potential to increase maternal infant bonding and attachment through MDMA’s effects to promote emotional closeness and empathy and increasing the ability of participants to “connect” with their baby.

I received a sabbatical from UNM to study the use of psychedelic therapies for trauma and addiction which included completion of the California Institute of Integral Studies certificate program in Psychedelic Therapies and Research and participation in the MAPS Phase 3 PTSD study as a therapist and coinvestigator. I see the therapy component of psychedelic assisted therapies (PAT) as integral to facilitating behavioral change in the area of addiction. To facilitate my role in psychedelic assisted therapy (PAT) for trauma and addiction I have completed a two-year training in Hakomi Somatic Mindfulness Psychotherapy. I am training to be a practitioner for Internal family systems and holotropic breathwork and \teaching an expanded form of Acceptance Commitment Therapy designed for PAT. I am a principal investigator at UNM for three NIH studies of the perinatal opioid addiction and the effects on infants and children and I am committed to designing research for PAT that is scientifically rigorous as well as embodying the principles of trauma informed care.”