



**MIND MEDICINE**  
A U S T R A L I A

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[Mind Medicine Australia Announces International Course Director and Dates for its Certificate in Psychedelic-Assisted Therapies following the TGA's Rescheduling Announcement](#)

Mind Medicine Australia (MMA) is thrilled to announce the details of its **Certificate in Psychedelic-Assisted Therapies (CPAT)** for 2023. With the [TGA's recent decision to reschedule psilocybin and MDMA](#) from July 1 on a limited basis, there is a huge need for mental health professionals to undergo training and learn how to administer psychedelic-assisted therapies.

MMA's CPAT program is the only course of its kind in Australia and the first in the Asia Pacific. Professor David Nutt, the Head of Neuropsychopharmacology at Imperial College London recently commented on ABC Radio National that the course is the best of its kind in the world. Many graduates have [described the course](#) as life-changing and the most outstanding professional development program they have completed.

In 2023 the program will be taken to a whole new level, with the engagement of an **International Course Director Dr Gita Vaid MD**. Dr Vaid is a board certified psychiatrist and psychoanalyst a co-founder of the [Center for Natural Intelligence](#), a multidisciplinary laboratory dedicated to psychedelic psychotherapy innovation and clinical practice. A lead instructor at The Ketamine Training Center and member of the Mount Sinai Psychedelic Psychotherapy Research and Trauma Center, she is a Multidisciplinary Association for Psychedelic (MAPS) – trained psychedelic psychotherapist practicing ketamine assisted psychotherapy in New York City. Dr Vaid completed her psychiatry residency training at NYU Medical Center and psychoanalytic training at the Psychoanalytic Association of New York. She trained as a Fellow in clinical psychopharmacology and neurophysiology at New York Medical College and completed a research fellowship at NYU Medical Center. Dr Vaid serves as the Director of Psychedelic Awareness at The Chopra Foundation.

MMA's Executive Director Tania de Jong AM commented: *"We are delighted to welcome Dr Vaid to lead our outstanding International Faculty. She brings directly relevant clinical experience in psychedelic-assisted therapy to support and educate clinicians in Australia and the Asia-Pacific region."*

Dr Vaid will be joined by Melbourne-based psychiatrist **Dr Eli Kotler**, who takes on the role of Australian Course Director. Dr Kotler is a consultant psychiatrist, holds an academic position at Monash University through the Alfred Psychiatry Research Centre, and is the medical director of Malvern Private Hospital, the first addiction hospital in Australia. He also sits on MMA's Board of Directors.

MMA's Chairman Peter Hunt AM commented: *"We've been working with Dr Kotler for two years now and I couldn't speak more highly of his professionalism, expertise and character. He's the ideal person to be directing the education of clinicians in this exciting new space."*



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These course directors will be joined by MMA's faculty of leading educators from around Australia and the world, including Professor David Nutt, the Head of Neuropsychopharmacology at Imperial College London (UK), Dr Ben Sessa, Psychiatrist and Chief Medical Officer at AWAKN Life Sciences (UK), Dr Gabor Mate, Dr Rick Doblin (MAPS), Dr William Richards from the Center for Psychedelic and Consciousness Research at the Johns Hopkins School of Medicine (USA), Professor Arthur Christopoulos, the Dean of the Faculty of Pharmaceutical Sciences at Monash University and many more.

**Dr Lauren Macdonald** will also join the International Faculty. She is currently working as a psychedelic study doctor and therapist at The Centre for Psychedelic Research at Imperial College London and has significant experience supporting patients through these treatments. More teachers will be announced soon.

The full faculty can be seen on MMA's CPAT site here:

<https://cpat.mindmedicineaustralia.org/>

The course runs for 16 weeks, starting July 16 and includes a weekly online class and a 6-day intensive in October, assessments, self-study, group work and more. The course welcomes psychiatrists, psychologists, GPs, physicians, psychotherapists, counsellors, addiction specialists, palliative care specialists, social workers, mental health nurses, occupational therapists from around Australia, New Zealand and the Asia-Pacific region.

There are a strictly limited number of places, which are filling fast since the TGA's announcement. The course is also recognised by graduates' professional colleges and associations through Continuing Professional Development (CPD) credits.

Dr Kotler, who is a Graduate of the CPAT program, commented: *"This is a very exciting time to be involved in overseeing the training of psychedelic prescribers and psychedelic-assisted therapists. Australia is now a pioneer in psychedelic-assisted therapies, and we need world-class training. The CPAT is a course which will meet those requirements. My expectation is that it helps create an ecosystem in Australia and the wider region where safe, equitable, respectful and effective psychedelic-assisted therapies are practiced. My hope is that it helps create a mental health system that aims at healing rather than symptom management, and treats people rather diagnoses."*

**Applications are now open for intakes commencing in July and filling fast.**

Please visit: <https://cpat.mindmedicineaustralia.org/>

**For further information please contact:**

- Peter Hunt, Chair, Mind Medicine Australia 0419 271 483
- Tania de Jong AM, Executive Director, Mind Medicine Australia 0411 459 999
- Dr Vaid & Dr Kotler are also available for interviews on request.