

THE BECKLEY FOUNDATION

The Beckley Foundation is a charitable trust set up to promote the investigation of consciousness from the perspectives of science, health, politics and history. Its activities include supporting and directing research programs, seminars and conferences to inform researchers, professionals and the public.

It has a particular interest in the comparative study of changes in consciousness brought about by such diverse activities as the practice of yoga, meditation and some forms of exercise and nutrition, as well as the use of legal and illicit drugs.

- * The Foundation's main scientific objective is to research the neurophysiology underlying changes in consciousness, especially those associated with heightened creativity, elevated awareness and positive mood.
- * The Foundation's social objective is to promote public health by supporting world-class scientific research into consciousness and its modulation from a multi-disciplinary perspective; and by disseminating the information to academics, policy-makers and the public.

The Beckley Foundation particularly seeks to promote the understanding of how this knowledge may be used to enhance health, ameliorate mental and physical illness, and comfort the dying. It also aims to investigate how best to encourage the avoidance of those practices that lead to poor health and addiction.

A key aspect of the Foundation's activities is to support and organise seminars and conferences where leading experts from a wide range of disciplines can analyse and explore the social and health implications of the latest scientific knowledge. This seminar on 'Drugs and the Brain', held at Magdalen College, Oxford on 22 Oct 2002, is the first in the series entitled 'Society and Drugs: A Rational Perspective'.

