



Dr Laurie Higbed

BSC, CLINPSYD
LEAD PSYCHOLOGIST –
AWAKN LIFE SCIENCES

Dr Laurie Higbed is Lead Psychologist at Awakn Life Sciences, a biotechnology company, researching, developing, and commercializing therapeutics to treat addiction with a near-term focus on Alcohol Use Disorder.

She is an experienced clinical psychologist, specialising in the use of psychedelic augmented psychotherapy in the treatment of adult patients with complex trauma, addictions and other mental health difficulties.

Dr Higbed is currently a research partner on the Bristol Imperial MDMA in Alcoholism Study (BIMA), an open-label proof of concept clinical trial, offering an eight-week course of MDMA-assisted psychotherapy to patients with alcohol use disorder. She is also a lead therapist for a trial sponsored by Compass Pathways investigating the use of psilocybin therapy as an effective treatment for depression.

Dr Higbed is registered with the Health and Care Professions Council (HCPC) and is a member of the Association of Clinical Psychologists (ACPUK).

Relevant publications

- Sessa, B., Higbed, L., O'Brien, S., et al (2021). **First study of safety and tolerability of 3,4-methylenedioxymethamphetamine-assisted psychotherapy in patients with alcohol use disorder.** *Journal of psychopharmacology (Oxford, England)*, 35(4), 375–383. <https://doi.org/10.1177/0269881121991792>
- Sessa, B., Higbed, L. & Nutt, D. (2019) **A Review of 3,4-methylenedioxymethamphetamine (MDMA)-Assisted Psychotherapy.** *Frontiers in Psychiatry* 10:138. doi: 10.3389/fpsy.2019.0013
- Higbed, L. and Fox, JRE. (2010). **Illness Perceptions in Anorexia Nervosa: A Qualitative Investigation.** *British Journal of Clinical Psychology*, 49(3), 307–325