

## This Week In Psychedelics: The science behind FTO's Compass patent challenges, living with HPPD, big pharma invests in psychedelics, and more



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# THIS WEEK IN PSYCHEDELICS

A decorative graphic featuring a central green vine with several large green leaves. The vine is intertwined with three circular elements: two orange circles with blue segments and one solid blue circle. There are also two small blue diamond shapes scattered around the central elements.

Happy new year! Welcome back to *The Microdose*. We took a short break from weekly round-ups in late December, but we've got the latest updates for you – let's get into it:

**The science behind FTO's Compass patent challenges.** In December, we reported on psychedelic nonprofit [Freedom to Operate's](#) petition to the US Patent and Trademark Office for post-grant review of one of Compass's psilocybin patents, essentially challenging the validity of Compass's polymorph claims. On December 22, FTO filed [a second petition](#) on another Compass patent based on the same

evidence they'd used in their first petition. We reported that the data FTO cited in those petitions was in press at the journal *Acta Crystallographica* Section C; it was published online three days later. The authors – researchers affiliated with the Usona Institute, the University of Wisconsin, the Alexander Shulgin Research Institute, Illinois's North Central College and the Illinois Institute of Technology – analyzed the crystalline forms in psilocybin samples produced between 1963 and 2021. They found three primary forms– Hydrate A, Polymorph A, and Polymorph B– and determined that the polymorph Compass claimed as a new invention is actually a mixture of long-known forms: roughly 81% Polymorph A and 19% Polymorph B. Their conclusion? “Revision is recommended on characterizations in recently granted patents.”