

CYBIN: **MOLECULES** **FROM THE** **HEALING** **GODS**

JIM WOODS
SPECIAL REPORT

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Cybin: Molecules from the Healing Gods

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Published by:

Eagle Products, LLC
122 C St. NW Suite #515
Washington, DC 20001
1-800-211-4766

Email: CustomerService@JimWoodsInvesting.com

Website: www.JimWoodsInvesting.com

Cybin: Molecules from the Healing Gods

The date was January 16, 1991. That was the day that the first fighter aircraft were launched from Saudi Arabia, as well as off U.S. and British aircraft carriers in the Persian Gulf, to commence the shock-and-awe bombing runs of Operation Desert Storm.

The U.S.-led offensive against Saddam Hussein's Iraq continued all night, and for many days later, as coalition forces pounded targets in and around Baghdad as the world watched the events transpire in television footage transmitted live via satellite.

Yet why am I bringing up this nugget of military history? Well, it's because on January 16, 1991, I was about one week away from graduating from the U.S. Army Airborne School at Ft. Benning, Georgia. Now, as you might imagine, I was admittedly terrified at the prospects of being sent over Iraq to jump into a hot war zone after only being in the Army for a little more than six months. Yet that is where I thought I was headed.

Of course, my fellow Airborne infantry and special operations cohorts were all quite boastful and outwardly courageous at the prospect of getting into the fight for our country. After all, we had volunteered for one of the most-dangerous jobs in the U.S. military, and we were being trained well in the serious business of killing. Yet underneath our tough exterior, we were all downright scared (or at least I know I was, and I knew my mates in the unit were too, because they admitted as much over many nervous rounds of beers).

One evening that week, a group of soldiers including yours truly were talking to one of the Airborne School instructors, also known as a "Black Hat." This man had been in the Army many years and was a veteran of many combat missions. We were all excited and being boisterous about the possibility of jumping into Iraq, saying things like we are going to, "Kick Saddam's ass and kill all of his elite Republican Guard."

Well, after several minutes of this chatter, the Black Hat had heard enough, and with a calm yet commanding voice, he looked at us with an intense gaze and said something chilling that I shall never forget: "Guys, please don't wish for combat. It will ruin your life."

Fortunately, I was not sent into Iraq, and I did not have suffer any of the trauma and life-ruining post-traumatic stress of war. Yet I was one of the

lucky ones. Many of my friends and fellow soldiers were sent into harms way during that campaign, and a few didn't make it. And many that did make it back seemingly unscathed later had to grapple with the remnants of deep physical and psychological wounds that, in many ways, very much did ruin their lives.

This was particularly true of the post-9/11 wars in Afghanistan and again in Iraq, only those wars lasted far longer and took a much, much greater toll on so many men and women of the armed forces.

According a 2013 study by the Veteran's Administration, from 1999 to 2010, about 22 veterans died by suicide every day. That's about one ruined and extinguished life every 65 minutes. And thousands more veterans, men and women just like me only not as lucky, have struggled mightily with post-traumatic stress syndrome, or PTSD.



Of course, PTSD is an extreme form of stress. And while war-related PTSD is serious, the number of afflicted pales in comparison to the estimated 40 million American adults who suffer from anxiety, and the 17 million or so who experienced at least one major episode of depression. According to the Anxiety & Depression Association of America, in 2017 approximately 6.7% of American adults 18 or older, or about 17.3 million, grappled with this debilitating depression condition.

Now, statistics are one thing, but when it comes to anxiety, depression, alcoholism and addiction, and even PTSD, the numbers are somewhat shallow. That's because I am willing to bet that if you are reading this, you likely know a family member, close friend, professional colleague, or someone you are otherwise acquainted with who has suffered from these or other mental disorders. And if you are unlucky enough, perhaps you are the one grappling with your own inner demons.

If you know someone like this, or if that someone is you, then you know that help is hard to find. Sure, there are many good counselors, and many well-meaning doctors out there. Yet the tools they have to treat these ailments are severing lacking in both efficacy and permanence. In fact, the results are so dismal that all the medical profession can really do at this juncture is give patients daily medication designed to mask the physical symptoms.

Yet what if there were a safe form of treatment that could really “reboot” the human brain and allow it to be more receptive to discarding the anxiety, depression and trauma that so many of us suffer from?

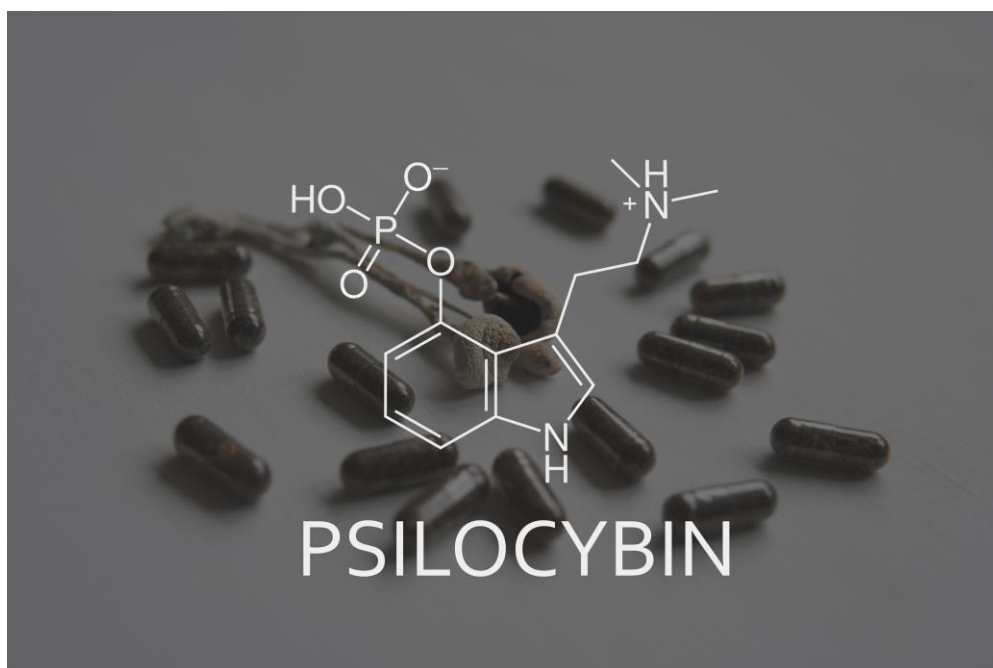
Well, there is such a treatment, and the substances used in these treatments have been known to humans for thousands of years. These substances are called psychedelics, and with the help of modern science, they are poised to become one of the most-promising treatments on the mental health front in years.

The Psilocybin Solution

Psychedelics are a class of hallucinogenic drugs whose primary effect is to trigger non-ordinary states of consciousness (known sometimes as “trips”) via serotonin 2A receptor agonism. This causes specific psychological, visual and auditory changes, and often a substantially altered state of consciousness.

Classical psychedelics, the psychedelics with the largest scientific and cultural influence, are mescaline, LSD, DMT and psilocybin.

It is the latter of these, psilocybin, that we are most interested in here, because synthetic psilocybin molecules manufactured in the laboratory and designed for clinical therapeutic use is one of the most interesting, and most investable, trends in biotechnology.



And the company at the tip of this curative spear is **Cybin Inc (CYBN)**.

Cybin Inc is a life sciences company focused on psychedelic drug development, delivery mechanisms, improved novel compounds and protocols that target psychiatric and neurological diseases.

The company's mission is to promote and progress psychedelic therapeutics by utilizing proprietary drug discovery platforms, innovative drug delivery systems, novel formulation approaches and treatment regimens for psychiatric disorders.

According to Cybin CEO Doug Drysdale: "We are focused on addressing the mental health crisis and transforming the treatment landscape. To do that, we are combining technology and our scientific expertise to pair novel psychedelic molecules with controllable drug delivery systems, aimed at improving outcomes for patients."

In June, I spoke with Doug and with Cybin Co-Founder, Executive Chairman and President, Eric So, via video conference about the company (isn't that the way most meetings are held in COVID America these days?). Although neither knew this at the time, I already knew all about the financials and what the company did. In this call, I was really just trying to size up their personalities to see if I could get a read on their focus and commitment to this venture.

Well, both gents passed my “authenticity test” with high marks, and if you are a reader of my publications, you know that I am a man who values authenticity and sincerity in corporate management quite a bit—perhaps more so than many of my colleagues. Of course, authenticity is one thing, but results and promise, along with the promise of real opportunity for investors, is what I am most concerned about there.



Here, Cybin and the psilocybin-assisted therapy they are involved with shows very promising results. In addition to being used by non-traditional medical practitioners for thousands of years, there have been many recent studies showing the efficacy of modern, clinical psilocybin-assisted therapy.

A [JAMA Psychiatry report](#) titled, “Effects of Psilocybin-Assisted Therapy on Major Depressive Disorder, A Randomized Clinical Trial,” reported the following highlights:

Question: Is psilocybin-assisted therapy efficacious among patients with major depressive disorder?

Findings: In this randomized clinical trial of 24 participants with major depressive disorder, participants who received immediate psilocybin-assisted therapy compared with delayed treatment showed improvement in blinded clinician rater–assessed depression severity and in self-reported secondary outcomes through the 1-month follow-up.

Meaning: This randomized clinical trial found that psilocybin-assisted therapy was efficacious in producing large, rapid, and sustained antidepressant effects in patients with major depressive disorder.

Key Points

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Source: JAMA Psychiatry Report “Effects of Psilocybin-Assisted Therapy on Major Depressive Disorder”

Then there’s a 2021 [review and metanalysis article in the journal Psychiatry Research](#) titled, “The experimental effects of psilocybin on symptoms of anxiety and depression: A meta-analysis,” which came offered up the following assessment:

“Within-group effects at post-treatment and six-month follow-up showed large reductions in anxiety and depression symptoms with no evidence of publication bias. Qualitative assessment of risk of bias was more concerning, with high risk in several domains. High between-study heterogeneity suggests there may be systematic variation across the studies. Future meta-analyses should examine study features (e.g., psilocybin dose) as moderators of treatment effects. Effects of psilocybin on anxiety and depression were also evident.”

Now, you don’t have to be a mycologist, pharmacologist or even a scientist to know that this field is promising. In fact, all you have to be aware of is how the smart money is treating the prospects of Cybin stock, and what the very smart analysts at Stifel that follow CYBN are saying about the company.

A June 20, 2021 [research report](#) praised Cybin’s new molecules for their “strong potential for IP protection and a long period of outsized returns.

Stifel also raised its price target on Cybin stock from \$11 to \$15 (Canadian dollars, as Cybin shares also trade on the NEO under the symbol (NEO: CYBN)). The investment firm also continued its “speculative buy” rating on the shares, which when translated into plain English means that the firm expects “a total return of greater than 30% over the next 12 months, with total return equal to the percentage price change plus dividend yield, accompanied by substantially higher than normal risk.”

Stifel bases this analysis on Cybin’s recent announcement of choosing social anxiety disorder and generalized anxiety disorder as target indications for CYB004, a novel molecule of the psychedelic class. These indications hold a large potential patient pool, have been amplified by the COVID-19 pandemic and often go untreated.

The firm said it believes the market size for these indications could be even higher than the estimated \$4 billion market size that Cybin suggested. While the psychedelics company is basing its estimates on patients that are already under medication with antidepressants, Stifel analysts think this molecule could be used to treat currently unmedicated patients.

The firm also sees possible synergies with other compounds from the Cybin family, such as CYB001, which is targeting major depressive disorder. As anxiety disorders are often presented with psychiatric comorbidities such as depression, and the company could also take advantage of a more holistic approach to patient care.

The Market Outlook According to Cybin

The potential growth for Cybin’s products is best reflected via the company’s own declarations on this front. Here is how they see the landscape:

Over 700 million people globally are affected with some sort of mental illness, addiction or eating disorder, according to the World Health Organization, leading to a sizable treatment market.

- The global treatment market for mental disorders is estimated at \$2.5 trillion, including \$800 billion in direct economic costs, according to the National Centre for Biotechnology Information.
- In the U.S., the direct and indirect economic costs of mental disorders are estimated at \$467 billion by the National Institute of Mental Health.

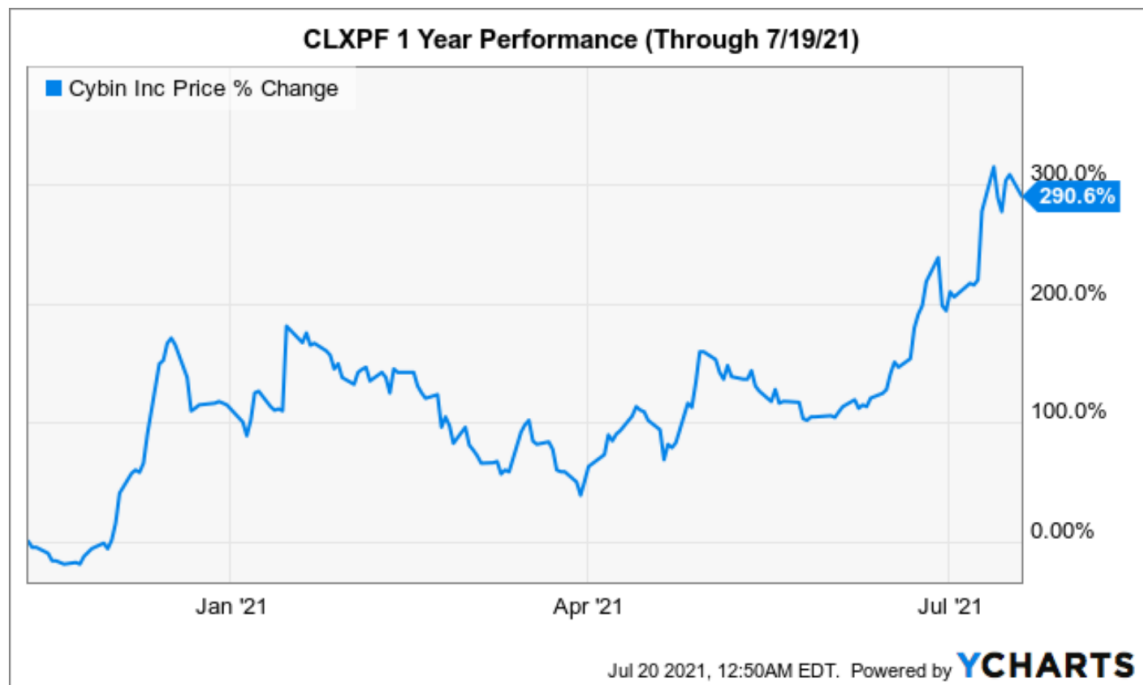
- In Canada, the direct and indirect costs associated with treating mental disorders total C\$51 billion, according to the Centre for Addiction and Mental Illness.
- The U.S. psychedelic drugs market was valued at \$2.1 billion in 2019 and is expected to reach nearly \$6.9 billion by 2027, accelerating at a CAGR of 16.3 percent, per [Data Bridge Market Research](#).

Euphoric Performance Free of Anxiety

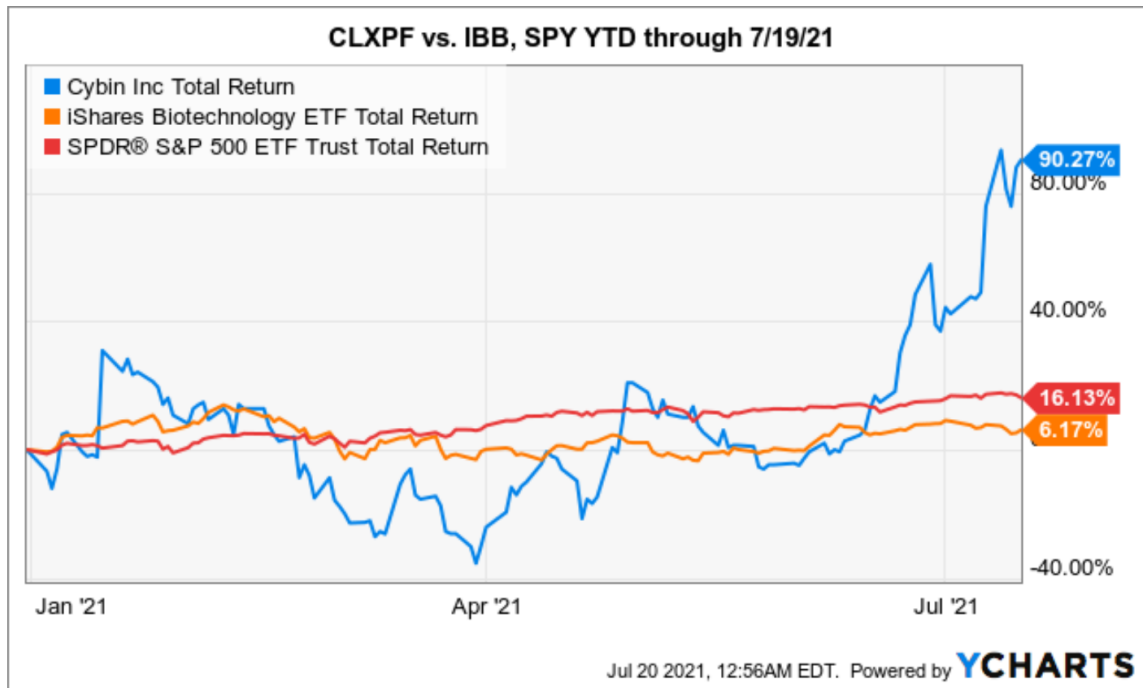
You just learned that one of Wall Street’s most-respected firms thinks very highly of Cybin and its performance upside. Yet we don’t have to wait for the future to see that the smart money has already embraced the still-nascent psilocybin treatment wave.

Here is a one-year performance chart of CYBN through July 19, 2021. As you can see, the total percentage gain over the at 52-week period is more than 290%! That move is what I call a strong “relative price strength” stock, as that big of a gain in just 12 months is in the top 5% of all publicly traded stocks in terms of relative share price strength.

So, on the performance front, we are talking the “best of the best.”



Interestingly, a comparison of CYBN over the more recent year-to-date time frame reveals an even better, more bullish statistic. The chart below shows the share price move of CYBN vs. the sector benchmark, the iShares Biotechnology ETF (IBB), and the SPDR S&P 500 ETF (SPY).



As you can see, Cybin has crushed the wider sector benchmark in 2021 with a gain of over 90%, while the IBB has only managed to gain a paltry 6.17%. The broad market was well above IBB, but still, SPY was only up 16.13%-- not even close to Cybin's move.

Of course, this stock is in a volatile sector, and the company is still in the clinical trial phases with its molecular psilocybin treatments. However, if you have ever invested in a new drug company, you know that the successful early clinical trial phases are where the real money is to be made in the stock. Another way to look at this is to see it as getting in early on a deal with the potential to go parabolic in the years ahead.

You do, however, need patience and a stomach for volatility, as these kinds of stocks can move higher very fast the way Cybin has, but they also can come back down on just one negative clinical trial headline. So, be fully aware of the potential outcomes before you jump headlong into this or any investment.



Investment Considerations

- Cybin Inc. currently has four molecules/technologies in its clinical pipeline in various stages of development with a robust discovery pipeline.
- The company's management team is comprised of leaders with experience in various aspects of the pharmaceutical and innovative therapeutics market.
- Recent studies have shown promising effects in the use of psilocybin, DMT and LSD therapies for psychiatric disorders in patients.
- The company holds eight provisional patents for various delivery mechanisms and related technologies.
- Cybin's therapeutic advances are catering to a global market of over 700 million people affected by mental illness.
- The U.S. psychedelic therapies market is expected to expand significantly, reaching \$6.9 billion by 2027, as the prevalence of depression and mental disorders continues to increase.
- Cybin has raised nearly \$C90 million to date.

Source: <https://www.cybin.com/science>

One more thing here, and to me this is perhaps the most interesting element of what Cybin is working on, and that is the “how” of how these psilocybin molecules work on the human brain.

Essentially, these molecules “rewire” a patient’s brain, creating what’s known as increased neuroplasticity and new pathways that essentially make a person’s brain more amenable and more receptive to traditional psychological therapy methods (i.e. talk therapy).

More specifically, people who have trauma of the PTSD sort have different brain chemistry than people who do not have PTSD. They usually have a hyperactive amygdala, which is the part of the brain that processes fear. They also have reduced pre-frontal cortex activity, the part of the brain that’s responsible for logic, and they have reduced activity in the hippocampus, where long-term memories are stored.

Well, psychedelics “remap” the brain in that they reduce activity in the amygdala, increase activity in the prefrontal cortex and increase connectivity between the amygdala and the hippocampus. Researchers in this field think this allows the brain to remit traumatic memories into “long-term storage,” and in effect allows the patient to properly process the trauma.

Of course, I am not a neuroscientist nor am I a brain researcher. I am, however, a scientist of sorts when it comes what I call “NewsQ,” which is my term for being able to recognize an idea, product or service with the potential to help society fulfill a need—and in doing so help investors make big profits.

It is my hope that psilocybin therapy that Cybin helps facilitate can one day eradicate the devastating effects of PTSD on soldiers, and help alleviate, improve, or even cure the debilitating anxiety and depression that so many Americans, and indeed so many people around the globe, are afflicted with.

And of course, from an investment perspective, if we can also let CYBN help improve our total returns, well then, that also will engender a sense of financial euphoria and freedom from anxiety that we all desire.

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Biography



Jim Woods is the editor of *Successful Investing*, *Intelligence Report*, and *Bullseye Stock Trader*, his newest trading service. He is a 20-plus-year veteran of the markets with varied experience as a broker, hedge fund trader, financial writer, and newsletter editor.

His books include co-authoring, “Billion Dollar Green: Profit from the Eco Revolution,” and “The Wealth Shield: How to Invest and Protect Your Money from Another Stock Market Crash, Financial Crisis or Global Economic Collapse.” He’s also ghostwritten many books and articles, as well as edited content for some of the investment industry’s biggest luminaries.

His articles have appeared on many leading financial websites, including InvestorPlace.com, Main Street Investor, MarketWatch, Street Authority, Human Events and many others.

Jim formerly worked with *Investor’s Business Daily* founder William J. O’Neil, helping to author training courses in the CANSLIM stock-picking methodology.

In the five-year period from 2015 to 2020, the independent firm TipRanks ranked Jim the No. 1 financial blogger in the world (out of more than 7,000). TipRanks calculates that during that period, he made 361 successful recommendations out of 497 total, earning a success rate of 73% and a +16.6% average return per recommendation.

He is known in professional and personal circles as “The Renaissance Man,” because his expertise includes such varied fields as composing and performing music; Western horsemanship, combat marksmanship, martial arts, auto racing and bodybuilding.

Jim holds a BA in philosophy from the University of California, Los Angeles, and is a former U.S. Army paratrooper. A self-described “radical for capitalism,” he celebrates the virtue of making money from his Southern California horse ranch.