

The light at the end of the tunnel for Awakn Life Sciences addiction treatment by Psychedelic therapeutics

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As an investor, I like to look for companies that have tremendous leverage to success. I often write about junior mining stocks and get pretty interested when they have plenty of drill results pending. If it is a pure exploration play, then news of any sort of economic drill holes can often make a stock pop (unless you are unfortunate enough to announce your information in a market like we've seen over the last week or so, in which case who knows what will happen). It's not often you can find this same kind of opportunity in a biotech company. Typically, there is a bloated share structure given it often takes many years, and a lot of money, to achieve any notable success. Certainly, it can happen, if you find a cure for cancer or perhaps create a vaccine that stops a pandemic, then it doesn't really matter what your share structure looks like, you can still get that magnificent rally that every shareholder dreams about. But today we are going to look at a company that isn't your typical biotech firm.

[Awakn Life Sciences Corp.](#) (NEO: AWKN | OTCQB: AWKNF) is in the unique position of having a relatively tight share structure (only 25 million shares outstanding), recently announced positive results from a [Phase IIb Clinical Trial](#), recorded its first-ever [quarterly revenue in Q3/21](#), and has ample cash in the treasury (C\$ 5.7 as of Oct 31/21) to fund operations for the foreseeable future. I view this as an outstanding starting point

for a biotech company that could provide an investor with pretty good upside to any future successes along the way. So, let's have a closer look at Awakn and what that upside could be.

Awakn Life Sciences is a biotechnology company, researching, developing, and delivering psychedelic therapeutics to better treat addiction. Awakn's team consists of world leading chemists, scientists, psychiatrists, and psychologists who are advancing the next generation of psychedelic drugs and therapies to be used together in treatments. Unlike other medical disciplines, psychiatry focuses on maintenance rather than cure, and on symptom suppression rather than addressing the root causes of these illnesses. The exception is psychedelics and psychedelic-assisted psychotherapy which have the potential to radically change addiction treatment and deliver significantly better patient outcomes.

But why the focus on addiction? It is because addiction is one of the biggest unmet medical needs globally with substance and behavioral addictions affecting a significant proportion of the global adult population. As a potential investor here are some key metrics: The global substance addiction treatment industry was valued at US\$16 billion in 2021 and is forecast to increase to US\$25 billion by 2027, while the overall global addiction rehabilitation and recovery industry was estimated to be valued at US\$140 billion per annum in 2021. The latter includes behavioral disorders like gambling, binge eating, and internet gaming (which my wife claims I suffer from).

Awakn is making excellent progress in tapping into the addiction market, particularly Alcohol Use Disorder (AUD). AUD is a pervasive and persistent public health issue, affecting at least 390 million people globally. Treatment rates are low and relapse rates, post-treatment, tend to be high. New and more effective treatments are urgently needed. To that end, on January 11th the

Company announced ground-breaking positive data from their [Phase II A/B trial](#) using Ketamine-Assisted Therapy for the treatment of AUD. Primary and secondary endpoints were achieved, including 86% abstinence over 6 months post-treatment and no serious adverse events (results were published in the American Journal of Psychiatry). The positive Phase II trial outcome paves the way to progress this trial into Phase III, with the ultimate aim of securing regulatory approval for Ketamine-Assisted Therapy to treat AUD in the UK through the NHS and potentially in other regions.

On the revenue front, Awakn achieved its first earning of patient service revenue through the acquisition of Axon, a leading ketamine-assisted psychotherapy clinic in Norway, which the Company [acquired on October 5, 2021](#). Additionally, their [Bristol, UK clinic was opened in October 20, 2021](#) with patient intake beginning in November. Each clinic is anticipated to generate on average £3 million (US\$4 million) revenue per annum and Awakn targets 20 clinics by the end of 2024. A third clinic in London is expected to open in Q1/22 with leases currently under negotiation in Manchester and Dublin.



Source: Awakn Life Sciences [Corporate Presentation](#)

Depending on the rollout of the clinics and the corresponding uptake of the associated services it's not unreasonable to see Awakn get close to generating enough revenue to self-fund its ongoing research and clinical trials. Awakn had a market cap of C\$51 million as of yesterday's close, which could be a paltry 2x annualized patient service revenue by mid-2022. All of a sudden that would make this Company very positively levered to any clinical success given the small number of shares outstanding and potentially little to no further dilution required to fund R&D.

Awakn Life Sciences' new psychedelic drug treatment for alcohol addiction moving to clinical trial

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As we all know alcohol addiction is one of the worst addictions in society costing billions per year. A 2010 study found that alcohol abuse in the USA costs the country [US\\$249 billion a year](#). A Washington Post report [stated](#) that "total cost manifests itself primarily in things like early mortality due to alcohol (\$75 billion of the total), lost productivity and absenteeism at work (\$82 billion), health-care costs (\$28 billion), crime (\$25 billion) and car crashes (\$13 billion)."

Awakn [states](#): "Between 15-20% of adults suffer from substance addictions, and many others from behavioral addictions.....\$17 billion per year (and rising) is spent on private addiction treatment."

With this in mind, the company has recently had some very encouraging results proving the effectiveness of ketamine-assisted psychotherapy on alcohol use disorder (AUD).

Some comments from patients in the study [included](#):

- *"It helped family wise, relationship wise, in every, every single avenue of my life, It's changed it."*
- *"I wouldn't be here now if it wasn't for it. I can definitely say that."*

- *“I feel I have much less desire to drink now than I used to. And I think what it is, I actually, I think I enjoy it less now.”*

The Company is [Awakn Life Sciences Corp.](#) (NEO: AWKN | OTCQB: AWKNF) (“Awakn”) and they believe their treatment can “revolutionise the treatment of alcohol use disorder.”

Awakn is developing a revolutionary new approach for treating substance and behavioral addictions



[Source](#)

The ‘Ketamine in the Reduction of Alcoholic Relapse’ (KARE) psychotherapy intervention study results

The actual study results will be published in the American Journal of Psychiatry later this year. However, judging from the patient’s comments above and the insider’s comments below the results appear to be outstanding.

Professor of Psychopharmacology at the UK’s University of Exeter (UoE), Celia Morgan [commented](#): “We are delighted that the findings are to be published in *the American Journal of Psychiatry*. **This new approach looks set to revolutionize the treatment of alcohol use disorder.** We are excited to partner with Awakn for the next steps in the journey of ketamine-assisted therapy into a licensed treatment for this group of patients with limited treatment options.”

Awakn CEO, Anthony Tennyson, [commented](#): “This is a very exciting moment for ketamine-assisted psychotherapy. For so many people who are suffering from alcohol addiction, for whom the current treatments just aren’t working, a successful phase II a/b trial and a unified ambition to progress this forward to a pivotal

trial, gives real hope to those seeking a better and healthier future.”

Note: Professor Morgan headed up the KARE study. Awakn has acquired the rights to this research.

More about Awakn Life Sciences

Awakn is a biotechnology company with clinical operations that researches, develops, and delivers psychedelic and other medicines to treat all types of addiction, as well as some other mental health disorders. Some examples of the conditions treated by Awakn include anxiety, depression, PTSD, eating disorders, and various types of addiction (alcohol, drugs, gambling etc).

Awakn’s team consists of world leading chemists, scientists, psychiatrists, and psychologists who are developing and advancing the next generation of psychedelic drugs, therapies, and enabling technologies to treat addiction. The team was [recently strengthened by adding Kate Butler](#) as CFO. Ms. Butler joins Awakn from Vectura Group plc, where she was the Group Financial Controller leading the team’s strategic, finance and M&A activity. Prior to that, she was Head of Finance for EMEA Cell Therapy (Kite Europe) and EMEA Controller for Gilead Sciences Inc.

In terms of commercialization, Awakn is still in the early stages. Awakn did [announce](#) in November 2021 a MOU with UK National Health Service (“NHS”) provider Devon Partnership NHS Trust, to increase access to psychedelic-assisted psychotherapy in the UK. The announcement [stated](#):

“The partnership establishes a framework and strategic relationship to assess NHS organizational readiness for ketamine-assisted psychotherapy. It will investigate how to enhance the evidence base for ketamine-assisted psychotherapy as

an alternative treatment for Alcohol Use Disorder and treatment-resistant depression within the NHS. The partnership will also assess how best to accelerate the on-label use of ketamine-assisted psychotherapy to treat AUD at scale.”

Awakn plans to deliver their evidence backed psychedelic therapies in clinics in the UK and Europe and through licensing partnerships, globally, starting already. As [announced](#) in October 2021, Awakn Clinics Bristol has received Care Quality Commission’s (CQC) formal approval to begin treatments. The news [stated](#): “The clinic will begin delivering ketamine-assisted psychotherapy treatments in October.”

There is also now an [Awakn Clinics Oslo](#), in Norway.

A summary of Awakn’s business plan



Source: [Awakn Life Sciences company presentation](#)

Closing remarks

Awakn is developing a revolutionary new approach for treating substance and behavioral addictions. Awakn’s latest alcohol study results will also soon be followed with their gambling addiction study results (some details on the study [here](#)), also conducted by the University of Exeter.

Alcohol addiction is just one of many addictions that Awakn is working on to deliver effective and safe treatment. All of this means that Awakn is beginning to tap into a truly massive untapped sector where for years treatments either didn’t exist or were often ineffective. Awakn is now commercializing their products with their new Awakn clinics in Bristol in the UK and Oslo in Norway, as well as plans for further expansion.

Awakn Life Sciences trades on a market cap of just C\$71 million. One to watch as the stock has been on the rise in 2021 and the Company looks to be making some serious progress.

Further reading

- [“This Is Something That Changed My Life”: A Qualitative Study of Patients’ Experiences in a Clinical Trial of Ketamine Treatment for Alcohol Use Disorders](#)
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Awakn Life Sciences’ Anthony Tennyson on using researched backed psychedelic drugs and therapies to treat Alcohol Use Disorder

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In a recent InvestorIntel interview, Tracy Weslosky speaks with Anthony Tennyson, CEO of [Awakn Life Sciences Corp.](#) (NEO: AWKN) about Awakn’s commitment to use researched backed psychedelic drugs and therapies to treat addictions such as Alcohol Use Disorder.

In this InvestorIntel interview, which may also be viewed on YouTube ([click here to subscribe to the InvestorIntel Channel](#)), Anthony went on to say that Alcohol Use Disorder affects 5% of the global population with a 70% relapse rate within the 1st 12 months and accounts for 30% of the global addiction treatment

market. Anthony further said that as clinics start to rollout this year starting with the UK, “Awakn will be the only company in the world providing evidence backed ketamine-assisted psychotherapy for Alcohol Use Disorder.”

To watch the full interview, [click here](#)

About Awakn Life Sciences Corp.

Awakn Life Sciences is a biotechnology company with clinical operations, researching, developing, and delivering psychedelic medicine to better treat Addiction. Awakn’s team consists of world leading chemists, scientists, psychiatrists, and psychologists who are developing and advancing the next generation of psychedelic drugs, therapies, and enabling technologies to treat Addiction. Awakn will also deliver evidence backed psychedelic therapies for Addiction in clinics in the UK and Europe and through licencing partnerships globally.

To learn more about Awakn Life Sciences Corp., [click here](#)

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Anthony Tennyson on Awakn Life Sciences bringing innovation in addiction treatment to the

market

written by InvestorNews | January 27, 2022

In a recent InvestorIntel interview, Tracy Weslosky speaks with Anthony Tennyson, CEO of [Awakn Life Sciences Corp.](#) (NEO: AWKN) about Awakn's recent [listing](#) on the NEO Exchange and bringing evidence-backed psychedelic therapies for addiction to the market.

In this InvestorIntel interview, which may also be viewed on YouTube ([click here to subscribe to the InvestorIntel Channel](#)), Anthony went on to say that Awakn is a biotech company that develops and delivers addiction treatment using psychedelic inspired drugs and therapies backed by research evidence and a team of world leading scientists, psychiatrists, and psychologists. With 15-20% of the UK, EU, US and Canadian population suffering from Addiction, Anthony said "the current industry is not as effective as it should be and there hasn't been an innovation in addiction treatment in many years. We are going to change that."

To watch the full interview, [click here](#)

About Awakn Life Sciences Corp.

Awakn Life Sciences is a biotechnology company with clinical operations, researching, developing, and delivering psychedelic medicine to better treat Addiction. Awakn's team consists of world leading chemists, scientists, psychiatrists, and psychologists who are developing and advancing the next generation of psychedelic drugs, therapies, and enabling technologies to treat Addiction. Awakn will also deliver evidence backed psychedelic therapies for Addiction in clinics in the UK and Europe and through licencing partnerships globally.

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Newly listed Awakn Life Sciences' team of experts prepare a pathway to treat addiction through psychedelic medicines

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One of the largest problems in our society today is substance abuse and addiction. Almost [21 million](#) Americans have at least one addiction. Addiction (drugs, tobacco, and alcohol etc) kills thousands of Americans every year and impacts millions of lives. For example, mental health and addictions are the 5th leading cause of illness globally, affecting [20% of the global population](#).

Today's company is in the sector of biotechnology and focuses on research and treatment to treat addiction and other mental disorders. They have already assembled a very impressive team.

15-20% of the population in USA, EU, UK & Canada are affected by addiction



Source: [Awakn Life Sciences company presentation](#)

[Awakn Life Sciences Corp.](#) (NEO: AWKN) (“Awakn”) [listed yesterday](#) on the [NEO Exchange Inc.](#) in Canada under the symbol “AWKN”, after a reverse merger and raise of gross proceeds of approximately [US\\$8.3 million](#) through a brokered private placement. Awakn is a biotechnology company with clinical operations that researches, develops, and delivers psychedelic and other medicines to treat addiction. The Company also plans to use psychedelic medicines to treat other mental health conditions.

Awakn CEO, Anthony Tennyson, [stated](#):

“Listing on the NEO is an important milestone for Awakn to continue to build on our dual strategic focus of developing psychedelic drugs, therapies, and enabling technologies to treat Addiction, and delivering psychedelic treatments for Addiction in our clinics....**The NEO listing will enable us to accelerate the execution of our drug discovery, therapy development, advanced analytics, and open clinic roll out programs.**”

Awakn’s team consists of world leading chemists, scientists, psychiatrists, and psychologists who are developing and advancing the next generation of psychedelic drugs, therapies and enabling technologies to treat addiction. Awakn [state](#):

“Psychedelics and Psychedelic-Assisted Psychotherapy....have the potential to radically change Addiction treatment and deliver significantly better patient outcomes.”

Awakn’s business strategy

Awakn has a dual strategic focus of researching and developing psychedelic drugs/therapies/enabling technologies and delivering psychedelic treatments.

Awakn’s research will focus on developing next generation

psychedelic drugs to treat addiction, including MDMA for alcohol use disorder, and ketamine for addiction. Awakn also intends to research for new chemical entities that can be effective treatment for alcohol, behavioural, opioid, and tobacco addictions.

Awakn plans to deliver evidence-backed psychedelic therapies for addiction in clinics in the UK and Europe and through licensing partnerships globally. The Company also plans to use psychedelic medicines to treat other mental health conditions.

Awakn's team (Board, management, advisors)

The Awakn team is simply very impressive. You can read the full details [here](#). Needless to say the Awakn team consists of several Doctors, Professors, and experienced personnel in the addictive disorders specialty. In news released today, Awakn [announced](#) that they have appointed globally renowned Neuroscientist and addiction researcher, Professor David Nutt, to the role of Chief Research Officer. Awakn state:

“This appointment is driven by the expansion of Awakn's psychedelic drug and therapy development pipeline targeting Addiction. In particular, the identification, and development of several potential new candidates with unique properties to better treat a broad range of addictions, acquired from Prof. David Nutt's Equasy Enterprises in March 2021; the licencing of the intellectual property from world's only Ketamine-Assisted Psychotherapy trial for Alcohol Use Disorder (AUD) from the University of Exeter in March 2021. And finally, the world's only Phase IIb trial for MDMA-Assisted Psychotherapy for AUD.”

Awakn has a highly experienced board and team



Source: [Awakn Life Sciences company presentation](#)

Closing remarks

Addiction of all types (alcohol, tobacco, drugs) is a significant societal problem with a strong need for urgent solutions. The global substance addiction treatment industry is valued at US\$17.5 billion pa and is forecast [to increase to US\\$31.5 billion pa by 2027](#).

Awakn Life Sciences has assembled a world class team to research and treat both addiction and other mental disorders. For those investors lucky enough to be able to access the NEO Exchange in Canada then be sure to take a look at Awakn Life Sciences. InvestorIntel will also keep you up to date [here](#) with their latest news and progress in 2021.