Illegal Drugs: Part Three - Public Policy & Limited Research

Dorsett Bennett for Salem-News.com

The First of Four Articles on Medical Marijuana.

(SALEM, Ore.) - Despite the ongoing political debate regarding the legality of medicinal marijuana, clinical investigations of the therapeutic use of cannabinoids are now more prevalent than at any time in history.

A search of the National Library of Medicine’s PubMed website quantifies the fact. A keyword search using the terms “cannabis, 1996” (the year California voters became the first of 13 states to allow for the drug’s medical use under state law) reveals just 258 scientific journal articles published on the subject during that year. Perform this same search for the year 2008, and one will find over 2,100 published scientific studies. There are 66 cannabinoids that have been identified in marijuana. The primary cannabinoids are the psychoactive THC (tetrahydrocannabinol), and the non-psychoactive CBD cannabidiol and CBN cannabiol.

While much of the renewed interest in cannabinoid therapeutics is a result of the discovery of the endocannabinoid regulatory system, some of this increased attention is also due to the growing body of testimonials from medicinal cannabis patients and their physicians.

Nevertheless, despite this influx of anecdotal reports, much of the modern investigation of medicinal cannabis remains limited to preclinical (animal) studies of individual cannabinoids (e.g. THC or cannabidiol) and/or synthetic cannabinoid agonists (e.g., dronabinol or WIN 55, 212-2), rather than clinical trial investigations involving whole plant material.

Predictably, because of the US government’s strong public policy stance against any use of cannabis (classifying it as a Schedule 1 controlled substance with a high potential risk of abuse), the bulk of this modern cannabinoid research is taking place outside the United States.

As clinical research into the therapeutic value of cannabinoids has proliferated, there are now more than 17,000 published papers in the scientific literature analyzing marijuana and its constituents. So too, has investigators’ understanding of cannabis’ remarkable capability to combat disease grown. Whereas researchers in the 1970s, 80s, and 90s primarily assessed cannabinoids’ capacity to moderate disease symptoms such as the nausea associated with cancer chemotherapy, scientists today are exploring the potential role of cannabinoids to actually modify disease.

Of particular interest, scientists are investigating cannabinoids’ capacity to moderate autoimmune disorders such as multiple sclerosis, rheumatoid arthritis, anti-inflammatory bowel disease, as well as their role in the treatment of neurological disorders such as Alzheimer’s disease, and Amyotrophic Lateral Sclerosis (a.k.a. Lou Gehrig’s disease).

Investigators are also studying the anticancer activities of cannabis, as a growing body of preclinical and clinical data concludes that cannabinoids can reduce the spread of specific cancer cells via apoptosis (programmed cell death) and by the inhibition of angiogenesis (the formation of new blood vessels). Arguably, these latter trends represent far broader and more significant applications for cannabinoid therapeutics than researchers could have imagined some thirty or even twenty years ago.

Acknowledgment: I wish to acknowledge extensive use of materials prepared by NORML, the National Organization for the Reform of Marijuana Laws, along with materials from ProCon.org and the National Organization for the Reform of Marijuana Laws, along with materials from ProCon.org and the National Organization for the Reform of Marijuana Laws, along with materials from ProCon.org.

http://www.salem-news.com/articles/january252009/illegal_drugs_3_1-2...
Reports From Iraq
Library of Medicine.

Illegal Drugs: Part 4 - Dorsett Bennett Salem-News.com
Illegal Drugs: Part 2 - Dorsett Bennett Salem-News.com
Illegal Drugs, Part I - Dorsett Bennett Salem-News.com

For other Salem-News.com articles on medical marijuana by Dr. Phillip Leveque, Tim King, Dorsett Bennett and other writers, visit this link: Salem-News.com Medical Marijuana articles

=================================================================================

Dorsett Bennett is a recently retired lawyer who moved to Oregon from the Southwest to be near relatives. It is kind of a homecoming in that he came close to being born an Oregonian, but his family moved from Coos County, Oregon to New Mexico for health reasons while his mother was pregnant with him. In the 12 years before his retirement, Bennett concentrated in Consumer Bankruptcy and Social Security Disability Law, and has filed over 200 Federal Court Appeals of Social Security Administrative Denials in New Mexico and Texas. Politically aware since age 12, he was a registered Republican from 1971 until 2004. He now considers himself an Independent/Libertarian. Bennett is self-aware enough to be admit that he has beliefs and/or positions that can be considered to be liberal or conservative. Bennett’s E-mail: dcbbennett@yahoo.com

=================================================================================

Related
Drug-abuse | Drugs | Death | Marijuana | Medical marijuana | Education | Police | Economy

Salem-News.com Top Stories
Rush Limbaugh: The Ugly Un-American
Willaemette Tenth in Nation for Peace Corps Volunteers
Nests in Hell
$10,000 Reward Offered for Suspect Arrest & Conviction in the Murder of Gurdev Sohi
The Emotional Abuse of Israeli Advocacy

Don’t Let The Memory Of Them Drift Away

Comments

stephen January 26, 2009 8:40 pm (Pacific time)

Time to ask ourselves.. with all the proven medical benefits, why would the government make it illegal. We are not even allowed to grow hemp. BUT, how many drugs DO hey allow that kill millions? many. getting the picture here?

stephen January 26, 2009 8:36 pm (Pacific time)

I liked the posts. I understand and am with you. Keep in mind, Ron Paul wanted to do exactly what most people want. But thezionist owned media, and the zionist own politicians, booted him out. Ron Pauls only message was to follow the Constitution, and to be honest. Keep THAT in mind. His first days in office would be to bring troops home, legalize drugs, and quit putting people in jail for smoking marijuana. Oh, he would have closed all unconstitutional prisons all over the world (gitmo is just one of many), and ended wiretapping on the American people. He would have also REDUCED government, instead of EXPANDING it. He would have quit spending so much so that the American people would not be in poverty. For those out there..getting it now?????

revhaze January 26, 2009 4:24 pm (Pacific time)

note to the new president i think you know that the weight on your shoulders is the largest in history. if you complete your terms it will be because you follow through with what got you elected, as well as every one in the world is actually holding their breath hoping for great things. you will be great and do amazeing things for your self and all the people in the entire world.do the things you told us you would do.imediately when it comes to sick people who are held with out bail.GET THEM OUT OF JAIL. they want their day in court and then expect to go home after that day.almost 100,000 people sit in jails and prisons all over the country.that means you are destroying
lives of all them. if they get a fair trial the law can work on getting the difference of crimanals and cizeins. mr. 
preseident as god as my witness you do things youve promised this country will see you and your family go to hights 
never seen before. and most importantly you wont look like you aged forty years in only two.i know you feel us and 
you understand we all gave are blessings please be the MAN we think we see.peace

sunmed January 25, 2009 10:41 am *(Pacific time)*

It gets better. The federal gov can not say there is no medical use for cannabis because the gov holds a patent for 
a slew of uses of cannabionoids. Check it out http://leavesofgrass.info/info/cbd-patent.pdf Cannabinoids are food for 
your cells.

[Return to Top]

Leave a comment on this story.
Name:

Enter the text from the image to confirm you are human. *(Cookies are required)*

Leave a comment

| HTML tags and certain characters are removed - (numbers, letters only or post may be cut short,) certain words are banned to stop spammers. All comments and messages are approved by people and self promotional links or unacceptable comments are denied. |
| ©2008 Salem-News.com. All opinions expressed in this article are those of the author and do not necessarily reflect those of Salem-News.com. |

Contact: adsales@salem-news.com | Copyright © 2008 Salem-News.com | news tips & press releases: newsroom@salem-news.com. 
Terms of Service | Privacy Policy