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Jan-25-2009 02:09  

## 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 cannabitol and CBN cannabitol.



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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.

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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.

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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

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**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](#)**

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**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: [dcbennettii@yahoo.com](mailto:dcbennettii@yahoo.com)**




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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 the zionist 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, aswell as every one in the world is actually holding their breath hoping for great things. you will be great and do amazing 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 prisonsall 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 citezins. mr. presedent as god as my witness you do things youve promised this country will see you and your family go to highs 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

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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 cannabinoids. Check it out <http://leavesofgrass.info/info/cbd-patent.pdf> Cannabinoids are food for your cells.

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