MEDICAMENT
MEDICAL MARIJUANA RESEARCH NEWSLETTER

SPRING 2023

WELCOME TO MEDICAMENT,

the Consortium for Medical Marijuana Clinical Outcomes Research's quarterly newsletter.

The Consortium, founded by the State of Florida, conducts, disseminates, and supports research on the use and effects of medical marijuana on patient outcomes.

In the Spring 2023 issue of MEDICAMENT:

- Annual Report 2022-2023
- Presentation at FL House
- Cannabis Clinical Outcomes Research Conference (CCORC)
- Researcher Spotlight Series
- FDA Study
- Evidence and Research Announcements
- Medical Marijuana and Me (M^3)
- Research Grants Program
- Fond Farewells
- Get Involved in Research

Consortium for Medical Marijuana Clinical Outcomes Research

To learn more about the Consortium and our programs, visit us at mmjoutcomes.org.

ANNUAL REPORT 2022–2023

Consortium Releases Annual Report

In February, the Consortium released its fourth annual report detailing its accomplishments from 2022-2023 and presenting plans for future initiatives.

Read the Annual Report here >

CONSORTIUM DIRECTOR PRESENTS REPORT TO FL HOUSE SUBCOMMITTEE

Presentation Provided to FL House Healthcare Regulation Subcommittee

On February 15, 2023, Consortium Director Almut Winterstein, RPh, PhD, FISPE provided a report on Consortium activity to the Healthcare Regulation Subcommittee of the FL House of Representatives. This presentation included an overview of the Consortium's history and research program, 2022-2023 research highlights, and key initiatives for 2023-2024. An archived recording of the presentation is available at the link below. **Note:** Dr. Winterstein's presentation begins at 1:02:11.

Watch the presentation here >

CCORC 2023: REGISTER TODAY

Early Bird Pricing Ends April 14

Registration is now open for the third annual Cannabis Clinical Outcomes Research Conference (CCORC).

CCORC

CANNABIS CLINICAL OUTCOMES RESEARCH CONFERENCE 2023

MAY 18–19, 2023 | ORLANDO, FL

Learn, Share, and Advance Medical Marijuana Research

MORE INFORMATION AT CCORC.MMJOUTCOMES.ORG

REGISTER HERE

ANNOUNCING CCORC 2023 KEYNOTE SPEAKERS

Three Top Researchers Selected to Present at Annual Conference

Jodi Gilman, PhD
Harvard | Massachusetts General Hospital
Title of Presentation:
Recreational and Medical Cannabis: Potential Implications on Cognition and Clinical Outcomes

Kelly Young-Wolff, PhD, MPH
Kaiser Permanente | University of California, San Francisco
Title of Presentation:
Cannabis Use During Pregnancy: Research from Policy to Practice

Shanna Babalonis, PhD
University of Kentucky
Title of Presentation:
Opioid and Cannabinoid Interactions: Abuse Potential and Clinical Implications

ANNOUNCING: RESEARCHER SPOTLIGHT SERIES

New Video Series Highlights Work by Consortium Grant-Funded Researchers

Paul Borsa, Ph.D.
Associate Professor
Department of Applied Physiology & Kinesiology
University of Florida College of Health & Human Performance

John S Markowitz
Pharm.D., BCPP Professor,
Pharmacotherapy & Translational Research,
University of Florida College of Pharmacy

Premiered in January 2023, Researcher Spotlight is a video series by the Consortium showcasing research from our grant awardees who scientifically evaluate clinical outcomes of medical marijuana use. Each episode spotlights a grant recipient to share their research question, methodological approaches and clinical impact of current/expected outcomes.

At the time of this publication, videos highlighting Drs. Paul Borsa and John Markowitz have been released.

If you are a Consortium grant-funded researcher and would like to participate in an episode of Researcher Spotlight, please email mmj.outcomes@cop.ufl.edu to express your interest.

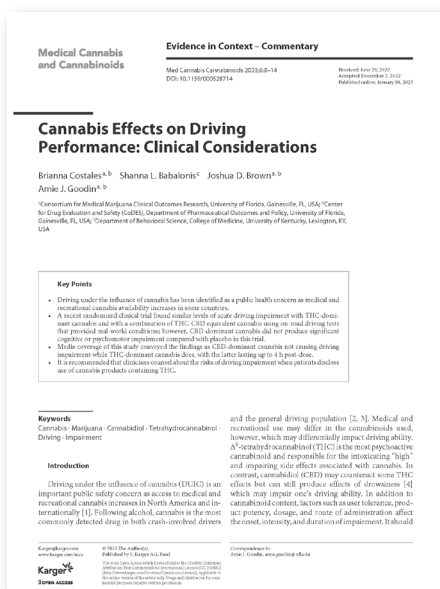# CONSORTIUM TAPPED FOR FDA STUDY

Collaboration Between UF, The Consortium, and Food and Drug Administration Began in January 2023

On Jan 27, 2023, UF finalized a contract with the United States Food and Drug Administration (FDA) to support a project titled, "Medical Literature and Data on Cannabis Use." The results from this project will be used by the FDA as supporting evidence as they draft their recommendations for either maintaining or revising the current Schedule I classification for cannabis, which will be presented to federal lawmakers.

The Consortium research team will accomplish the assessment of clinical risk-benefit through the conduct of large-scale systematic literature reviews, apportioned between two projects:
- **Project 1** will examine a series of harms outcomes described in studies that examined cannabis use for medical, nonmedical, and for unknown purposes.
- **Project 2** will examine the effectiveness of medical cannabis for Pain, PTSD, Anxiety Disorders, Epilepsy, Nausea, Anorexia (i.e., appetite stimulation), and Inflammatory Bowel Diseases.

The team consists of members from the Consortium, led by Amie Goodin, assistant director for the Consortium Evidence Core, the Harvard Pilgrim-based Sentinel Initiative and the FDA.

Cannabis Effects on Driving Performance: Clinical Considerations

Brianna Costales[a, b] Shanna L. Babalonis[c] Joshua D. Brown[a, b]
Amie J. Goodin[a, b]

[a]Consortium for Medical Marijuana Clinical Outcomes Research, University of Florida, Gainesville, FL, USA; [b]Center for Drug Evaluation and Safety (CoDES), Department of Pharmaceutical Outcomes and Policy, University of Florida, Gainesville, FL, USA; [c]Department of Behavioral Science, College of Medicine, University of Kentucky, Lexington, KY, USA

Key Points
- Driving under the influence of cannabis has been identified as a public health concern as medical and recreational cannabis availability increases in some countries.
- A recent randomized clinical trial found similar levels of acute driving impairment with THC-dominant cannabis and with a combination of THC-CBD equivalent cannabis on road driving tests that provided real-world conditions; however, CBD-dominant cannabis did not produce significant cognitive or psychomotor impairment compared with placebo in this trial.
- Media coverage of this study conveyed the findings as CBD-dominant cannabis not causing driving impairment while THC-dominant cannabis does, with the latter lasting up to 4 h post-dose.
- It is recommended that clinicians counsel about the risks of driving impairment when patients disclose use of cannabis products containing THC.

Keywords
Cannabis · Marijuana · Cannabidiol · Tetrahydrocannabinol · Driving · Impairment

Introduction

Driving under the influence of cannabis (DUIC) is an important public safety concern as access to medical and recreational cannabis increases in North America and internationally [1]. Following alcohol, cannabis is the most commonly detected drug in both crash-involved drivers and the general driving population [2, 3]. Medical and recreational use may differ in the cannabinoids used, however, which may differentially impact driving ability. Δ9-tetrahydrocannabinol (THC) is the most psychoactive cannabinoid and responsible for the intoxicating "high" and impairing side effects associated with cannabis. In contrast, cannabidiol (CBD) may counteract some THC effects but can still produce effects of drowsiness [4] which may impair one's driving ability. In addition to cannabinoid content, factors such as user tolerance, product potency, dosage, and route of administration affect the onset, intensity, and duration of impairment. It should

EVIDENCE AND RESEARCH ANNOUNCEMENTS

Driving Under the Influence of Cannabis: New Publication by Consortium-Affiliated Researchers Digs Deeper Into Potential Risks

A new commentary by Consortium researchers, in collaboration with University of Kentucky Cannabis Center Director Dr. Shanna Babalonis, explores findings related to THC and CBD impacts on driving performance. Published in *Medical Cannabis and Cannabinoids*, the official journal of the Consortium for Medical Marijuana Clinical Outcomes Research, this new paper is the latest installment in our Evidence in Context Series.

As driving under the influence of cannabis (DUIC) becomes a growing public safety concern, several studies assessing impacts on crash risk have drawn significant attention within cannabis research and public policy circles. Costales et al. elaborate on findings relative to past research and contextualize how the available evidence can guide conversations on cannabis use safety and ultimately inform policymakers on public health implications.

Read the full article here >

M³ MEDICAL MARIJUANA & ME UPDATE

M³ Cross-Sectional Study Data Access Now Available

Data from the Medical Marijuana and Me (M³) cross-sectional study are now available for interested researchers. The data summarize information on utilization pattern and health outcomes from 632 current MMJ users and are available for researchers addressing questions within the following suggested domain and others:

- Comorbidities
- Concurrent Medication Use
- Concurrent Substance Use
- Demographic Characteristics of the Study Participants
- MMJ Products and Use Patterns
- MMJ-Related Side Effects
- Perceived Effects on Physical and Mental Health
- Reasons for Using MMJ

The Data Access Request Application is now open for submissions. More information, and a summary of research that has already been proposed, are available at mmjoutcomes.org/m3study.

If you have questions or would like to speak to a study team member, you may call/text (352) 658-3735 or email m3cohort@phhp.ufl.edu.

RESEARCH GRANTS PROGRAM

2023 Grants Program: Letters of Intent and Proposals

The Consortium for Medical Marijuana Clinical Outcomes Research received 18 letters of interest (LOI) from Faculty from 6 of its member institutions, in response to its fifth Request for Proposals (RFP) for the 2023 Research Grants Program. After review all 18 LOIs were found to be responsive to the research priorities of the Consortium, and were invited for full proposal submission. The deadline for invited full proposal submission is set for April 3, 2023 at 11:59 PM EST. The Consortium will announce final decisions regarding funding by July 1st, 2023.

FOND FAREWELLS

The Consortium Sends Best Wishes to Two Outgoing Staff Members

All of us at the Consortium would like to send our warmest wishes to Dr. Joshua Brown and Hannah Fechtel on their new journeys. Both Hannah and Joshua leave having made invaluable contributions to executing the vision of this Consortium.

Dr. Brown helmed the development of infrastructure supporting the MEMORY database, which will be a unique research resource containing the first medical marijuana dispensary database linked to other healthcare databases. He also initiated the "Evidence in Context" series along with Dr. Goodin, which critically appraises recent high-profile cannabis research while contextualizing the findings for clinical and general audiences.

As Research Coordinator, Hannah Fechtel provided vital support for the Consortium's Clinical Core team. She contributed significantly to the success of the Medical Marijuana & Me (M³) study through clinic relations development and management, patient recruitment, survey development, data collection and management, and assistance with M³'s data access infrastructure. While Ms. Fechtel will no longer be serving in her current role, she will continue assisting the Consortium in a part-time capacity.

We wish them all the best in their future endeavors!

GET INVOLVED IN RESEARCH

CARMMA: Changing the way we collaborate across the state of Florida

The [Connect and Advance Research for Medical Marijuana Analysis (CARMMA) Database](#) is accessible to researchers, physicians, and industry collaborators.

We believe collaborations bring research advancements. The CARMMA Database connects researchers, clinicians, and industry to foster medical marijuana research.

Anyone interested in engaging in medical marijuana research is invited to register in CARMMA to find collaborators.

> **JOIN THE CARMMA DATABASE**

Have news or feedback to share? Let us know!

Share your Consortium-related research and news through our [submission form](#).

Share your comments on our newsletter through our [feedback form](#).

Don't want to miss any MEDICAMENT issues?

Share your contact information through our [newsletter sign-up form](#).

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Medical Marijuana
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