

# MEDICAMENT

## MEDICAL MARIJUANA RESEARCH NEWSLETTER



SUMMER 2024

### 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 Summer 2024 issue of  
MEDICAMENT:*

- Event Summary: CCORC 2024
- Grants Program 2024 Awardees Announced
- Medical Marijuana Fact Sheets Now Available
- MEMORY Updates
- Outreach Updates
- Evidence and Research Announcements
- Journal Corner
- 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](https://mmjoutcomes.org).

### CANNABIS CLINICAL OUTCOMES RESEARCH CONFERENCE (CCORC) HOSTS FOURTH ANNUAL MEETING

CCORC 2024 joins experts in advancing medical marijuana research



On Thursday, May 30th and Friday, May 31st, 2024, the Consortium for Medical Marijuana Clinical Outcomes Research hosted its fourth annual research conference, Cannabis Clinical Outcomes Research Conference (CCORC). The conference was held in person with virtual options at the UF Research and Academic Center at Lake Nona, Orlando, FL.

CCORC connects researchers, physicians, community stakeholders, and industry representatives to disseminate research, foster thoughtful discussion, and encourage collaboration in medical cannabis research. CCORC 2024's program included three keynote speakers, two poster sessions for abstracts selected following peer review, and twelve oral presentations of top abstracts.

## CCORC 2024 Summary Continued

Three main themes on clinical cannabis research conduct and interpretation emerged throughout the conference:



1. Effects of cannabis when used with mental health conditions
2. Translation of basic science research findings into clinically actionable evidence
3. Identifying and quantifying problematic cannabis use

Registrants were able to earn Continuing Medical Education (CME) or Continuing Pharmacy Education (CPE) credits for attending components of the scientific program. Abstracts presented at CCORC 2024 will be published in *Medical Cannabis and Cannabinoids*, the official journal of the Consortium for Medical Marijuana Clinical Outcomes Research.

## CCORC 2024 Awardees

Each year, CCORC concludes with an awards ceremony recognizing outstanding contributors to the conference's scientific program. The following awardees received recognition.

### Top Scoring Student Abstracts

**Anuradha Ramdas**

University of Miami

**Juan Perez**

University of Florida

**Alexandria Cashman**

University of Miami

### Top Scoring Non-Student Abstracts

**Carter Reeves**

University of Utah

**Armiel Suriaga**

Florida Atlantic University

**Donald Porchia**

University of Florida

### Best Student Poster - Session 1

**Mounika Aare**

Florida A&M University

### Best Student Poster - Session 2

**Alexandria Senetra**

University of Florida

### Best Student Poster - Overall

**Bassma Eltanameli**

University of Florida

## CCORC 2024 Keynote Speakers



**Matthew Hill, PhD**

**Professor**, Hotchkiss Brain Institute,  
University of Calgary

***Cannabis, Endocannabinoids and PTSD***



**Margaret Haney, PhD**

**Professor**, Irving Medical Center,  
Columbia University

***Cannabis Use Disorder***



**Ryan Vandrey, PhD**

**Professor**, Behavioral Pharmacology Research Unit,  
Johns Hopkins University

***Using Laboratory Science to Inform Clinical Decision  
Making and Patient Safety in Medicinal Cannabis***

## CCORC 2024 Top Abstracts Selected for Oral Presentations



**Christopher Broxson, BS, BA**  
*Senior Biological Scientist*, University of Florida  
*Anti-fibrotic Effects of Cannabidiol are Diminished When Fibrotic Scar Formation is Active: Implications for Patients with Inflammatory Bowel Disease*



**Anuradha Ramdas, MPH**  
*Research Assistant*, University of Miami  
*Cannabis Use During Pregnancy: Trimester-Specific Insights into Cannabinoid Preferences – Results from COVID-19 Cannabis Mom Study*



**Alexandria Cashman**  
*Research Volunteer*, University of Miami  
*Prevalence of Mental Health Conditions and Symptoms Among Emerging Adult Cannabis Consumers Compared to Non- Consumers: Preliminary Results from the Herbal Heart Study*



**Jacob Ross, BS**  
*Research Coordinator*, UC San Diego Health  
*Posttraumatic Stress Disorder Symptoms are Associated with Impaired Mnemonic Pattern Separation but Paradoxically Improved Pattern Separation with Comorbid Heavy Cannabis Use*



**Naeen Chaudhry, MD, MS**  
*Assistant Professor*, University of Miami  
*Patterns and Perceptions of Marijuana use for Symptom Control in Inflammatory Bowel Disease Patients*



**Mandip Singh Sachdeva, PhD**  
*Professor*, Florida A&M University  
*Oral Delivery of Cannabinoids using Milk Exosomes and their delivery to Breast Tumors: Pharmacokinetic and Pharmacodynamic Investigations*



**Jocelyn Mueller, MS**  
*Research Assistant*, University of Central Florida  
*Effects of cannabis expectancies upon current anxiety and depressive symptoms among women with post-traumatic stress disorder*



**John Stauffer, MS**  
*PhD Student*, University of Florida  
*Sublingually-administered CBD is safe and effective in reducing symptoms associated with strenuous exercise*



**Niall Murphy, PhD**  
*Associate Research Professor*, University of Florida  
*Pharmacological interactions between cannabidiol and oxycodone in the brain*



**Armiel Suriaga, PhD, MSN, RN**  
*Assistant Professor*, Florida Atlantic University  
*What are the odds of dying from drug intoxication among cannabis users who also used opioids, kratom, and alcohol?*



**Donald Porchia, PhD**  
*Manager and Analyst II*, University of Florida  
*Gender differences in correlations of self-reported marijuana use with a creatinine-normalized urine biomarker among persons with HIV*



**Melanie Zamora**  
*Undergraduate Student*, University of Miami  
*Cannabis Consumption and Problems in the Family: Differences Across Gender, Ethnicity, and U.S. Nativity Among Young Adult Cannabis Consumers - Preliminary Insights from the Herbal Heart Study*

The fifth annual CCORC is planned for summer 2025, the official date is forthcoming.

Visit the links below for more information regarding CCORC 2024:

[View Photo Gallery >](#)

[View Full Conference Program >](#)

[View Abstracts and Posters >](#)



# GRANTS PROGRAM 2024 AWARDEES ANNOUNCED

Eight investigators representing four Consortium member institutions have been awarded grants for the 2024 cycle. Six new awards as well as two level-2 renewals were funded for a total of \$553,810. The following is the list of 2024 Consortium grant awardees. [Click here for more information.](#)

<b>Erica Dale,</b> University of Florida	Effects of acute cannabis smoke exposure on respiration after cervical spinal cord injury in rats
<b>Habibeh Khoshbouei,</b> University of Florida	Development of cannabinoid treatments to ameliorate methamphetamine use disorder
<b>Panagiota Kitsanta,</b> Florida Atlantic University	Medical Cannabis Use among Pregnant and non-Pregnant Women of Reproductive Age
<b>Earl Morris,</b> University of Florida	Medical Cannabis Use and Cardiovascular Health in a Vulnerable Population of Medicaid Patients
<b>Niall Murphy,</b> University of Florida	Comparative evaluation of cannabinoids and opioids for treating chronic pain in aged subjects
<b>Mandip Sachdeva,</b> Florida A&M University	Cannabidiol and Cannabichromene Combination for the treatment of Diabetic Peripheral Neuropathy
<b>Barry Setlow,</b> University of Florida	Effects of inhaled THC/CBD combinations on age-related cognitive impairment
<b>Eva Widerström-Noga,</b> University of Miami	Effects of a hemp-derived cannabidiol and cannabidiolic-acid oral extract on resting-state electroencephalography and neuropathic pain in people with spinal cord injury

## MEDICAL MARIJUANA FACT SHEETS NOW AVAILABLE

Learn more about medical marijuana through the new patient fact sheets now available online

Each fact sheet describes the effects of medical marijuana for conditions such as anxiety, Crohn's disease, pain, epilepsy, and more.

[View fact sheets here >](#)

The image shows two educational fact sheets. The left sheet, titled 'AN INTRODUCTION TO THE ENDOCANNABINOID SYSTEM (ECS)', explains that the body naturally creates substances called endocannabinoids that connect to CB1 and CB2 receptors. It lists various systems affected: Central Nervous System (supports brain and central nervous system), Immune System (reduces inflammation), Hormones (balances metabolism and stress), Muscles (controls blood sugar), and Bones (supports mass and strength). The right sheet, 'MEDICAL MARIJUANA FOR DEPRESSION? WHAT YOU SHOULD KNOW', discusses depression as a qualifying condition, offers help for depression, and provides information for healthcare providers regarding medications like SSRIs and bupropion.

# MEMORY UPDATES

## MMUR Database now linked with Florida Medicaid Administrative Billing Records and Florida Vital Statistics

MEMORY (MEdical Marijuana clinical Outcomes RepositorY) is a unique interlinked database which includes all registered medical marijuana users in Florida, allowing the investigation of medical marijuana related clinical outcomes and policy research. The Consortium works with the Florida Office of Medical Marijuana Use (OMMU) on the extraction specification and secure transmission of medical marijuana user registry (MMUR) data.

The MMUR data have now been linked to Florida Medicaid beneficiary administrative billing (claims) and vital records. Claims data provide longitudinal detail on patients' health history and clinical outcomes for assessment of medical marijuana effectiveness and safety. Vital records, including birth, death and fetal death records will support studies on medical marijuana effects on pregnancy outcomes and infants, and its role in decreasing or increasing patient mortality. To request data, read more information on the data sharing process [here](#).

The tables below show the total number of unique individuals in different databases used in MEMORY development, and also the number of unique individuals linked with MMUR data.

[Read more about MEMORY >](#)

Time Period	Data Source	Description	Total Number
01/2017 – 08/2023	MMUR	Total certified users of medical marijuana	1,197,045
		Total number of users with at least 1 dispensing	1,138,183
01/2017 – 12/2023	Florida Medicaid Administrative Billing Records	Total number of Medicaid patients	8,120,651
01/2015 – 10/2023	FL Vital Birth	Total number of births	1,924,248
01/2015 – 10/2023	FL Vital Death	Total number of deaths	1,959,034
01/2015 – 10/2023	FL Vital Fetal Death	Total number of fetal deaths	13,857

*Total numbers by data source. (Note that all data is for Florida.)*

Database Linked with MMUR	Linked Individuals	% of Certified Medical Marijuana Users Linked
Florida Medicaid Administrative Billing Records	241,594	20.18%
FL Vital Birth	85,594	1.05%
FL Vital Death	47,133	2.45%
FL Vital Fetal Death	338	0.02%

*Total number of linked individuals by data source and the percentage of certified MMJ users.*

## OUTREACH UPDATES

Dr. Yan Wang, lead of Clinical Core, granted \$3.2 million NCI U01 award to study medical marijuana in breast cancer treatment



Consortium Assistant Director of Clinical Core, Dr. Yan Wang, was granted a five-year \$3.2 million U01 award from the National Cancer Institute to study the benefits and harms of medical marijuana in breast cancer patients.

Dr. Wang and Dr. Jennifer Hu, professor at the University of Miami and previous Consortium grant awardee, co-lead a team of researchers from the University of Florida Health Cancer Center and the University of Miami Sylvester Comprehensive Cancer Center. The team will collect and analyze data from 600 patients during and after cancer treatment. They hypothesize that medical marijuana may improve treatment-related symptoms and clinical outcomes by targeting the inflammatory pathway.

[Read more >](#)

Dr. Amie Goodin, lead of Evidence Core at the Consortium, weighs in on new marijuana study

Consortium Assistant Director, Dr. Amie Goodin, was recently interviewed on The National Desk regarding a new study which shows that daily marijuana use has outpaced drinking in the U.S.



The study found that in 2022, an estimated 17.7 million people reported using marijuana daily or near-daily compared to 14.7 million daily or near-daily drinkers. Though alcohol is more widely used, 2022 is the first time that daily marijuana use has overtaken daily drinking.

Dr. Goodin stated that although this study offers valuable insight, there is still much to learn about marijuana use regarding its health and safety.

[Watch the full news piece here >](#)

Consortium members participate in scientific meetings across the globe

From May 31 to June 2, the Consortium hosted a booth as part of its outreach efforts at the annual Florida Medical Cannabis Conference and Exhibition (FMCCE). The conference allowed the Consortium to connect with other researchers, clinicians, and industry professionals across the state.

From July 1 to July 4, Consortium Associate Director, Dr. Robert Cook, and Consortium Assistant Director of Clinical Core, Dr. Yan Wang, presented research at the annual International Cannabinoid Research Society Symposium (ICRS). Dr. Cook presented a research poster entitled, "Longitudinal

study of changes in pain, positive affect, and negative affect among persons initiating medical marijuana in Florida,” which showcased data from the M<sup>3</sup> study that suggests overall improvements in pain, positive affect, and reductions in anger/negative affect among persons initiating medical marijuana in Florida. [Read the full abstract here](#) (Page 245). Dr. Wang also presented a poster at ICRS entitled, “Real-time effects of medical cannabis on older adults with chronic pain: early results from a prospective cohort with control” which presented data from The Study on Medical marijuana and Its Long-term Effects in older adults (SMILE Study), an ongoing prospective cohort study that enrolls and follows older adults with chronic pain. [Read the full abstract here](#) (Page 213).

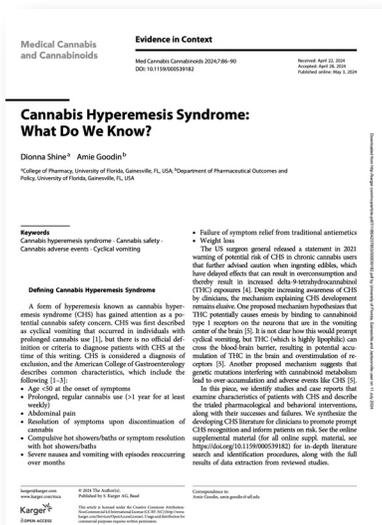


**Pictured Here:**

Predoctoral trainee, Juan Perez, Assistant Director of Clinical Core, Dr. Yan Wang, and Communication Specialist, Allison Veliz host an exhibit booth at FMCCE 2024.

## EVIDENCE AND RESEARCH ANNOUNCEMENTS

Cannabis Hyperemesis Syndrome: Consortium-affiliated researchers delve into what we know so far



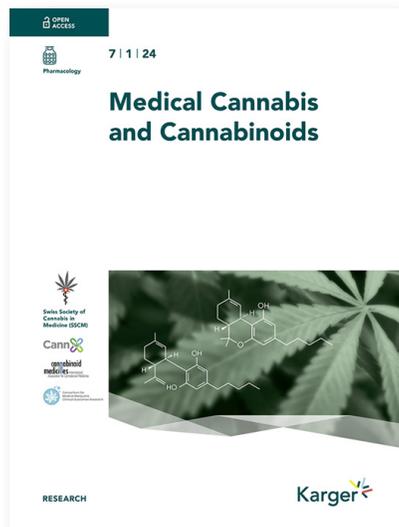
A new commentary by Consortium researchers explores findings related to Cannabis Hyperemesis Syndrome (CHS), a potential cannabis safety concern. Published in [Medical Cannabis and Cannabinoids](#), the official journal of the Consortium, this new paper is the latest installment in the Evidence in Context Series.

The US surgeon general released a statement in 2021 warning of potential risk of CHS in chronic cannabis users that further advised caution when ingesting edibles, which have delayed effects that can result in overconsumption and thereby result in increased delta-9-tetrahydrocannabinol (THC) exposures. Despite increasing awareness of CHS by clinicians, the mechanism explaining CHS development remains elusive.

[Read the full article here >](#)

# JOURNAL CORNER

Updates from Karger, publisher of the Consortium's official journal



*Medical Cannabis and Cannabinoids is the official journal of the Consortium, offering an international forum to investigate cannabis safety and effectiveness when used for medical purposes. This series in the newsletter, Journal Corner, provides updates, information and resources from the journal publisher, Karger.*

## New from Consortium Members

[Cannabis Hyperemesis Syndrome](#) (Dionna Shine, Amie Goodin). *Med Cannabis Cannabinoids* 2024;7:86-90; DOI 10.1159/000539182

## Become a Peer Reviewer for Medical Cannabis and Cannabinoids (or other Karger journals)

Peer reviewers are an important part of the scholarly publishing landscape. Their assessments help editors in evaluating articles submitted to a journal and help authors improve their work through their constructive comments. There are many reasons to be a peer reviewer – to stay on top of the latest research, give back to the scientific community, gain exposure to the publishing world, and even make inroads to editorial boards. Karger supports peer reviewers in a number of ways, including with reviewer certificates, automatic ORCID profile updates, and discounts off publication fees to Karger journals. Karger has also developed a bundle of online courses for peer reviewers – these are provided free of charge to reviewers when they are invited to evaluate a paper. To become a reviewer for a Karger journal, complete the self-nomination form found [here](#).

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- [Reviewer Self Nomination | Karger Publishers](#)
- [Peer Review Collection \(karger.com\)](#) (free when you are invited to review a paper for a Karger journal)

## Medical Cannabis and Cannabinoids at a Glance

- Official journal of the Consortium for Medical Marijuana Clinical Outcomes Research
- Consortium members are eligible for an APC discount of 50% on accepted articles
- Open Access
- Indexed in PMC, DOAJ, Scopus
- CiteScore: 6.0

For more information or questions about Medical Cannabis and Cannabinoids, contact: Alan Tootle, Publication Manager, [a.tootle@karger.com](mailto:a.tootle@karger.com)

## GET INVOLVED IN RESEARCH

The CARMMA Database has now been revamped to facilitate easier access to collaborators

The [Connect and Advance Research for Medical Marijuana Analysis \(CARMMA\) Database](#) connects researchers, physicians, and industry collaborators to foster medical marijuana research.

The CARMMA Database has recently been revamped to include more comprehensive information, facilitating easier access for collaborators.

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  
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