

# MEDICAMENT

## MEDICAL MARIJUANA RESEARCH NEWSLETTER



WINTER 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 Winter 2024 issue of  
MEDICAMENT:*

- NSU Joins the Consortium
- CCORC 2025 Call for Abstracts
- 2025 Grants Program
- Medical Marijuana & Me (M<sup>3</sup>)
- MEMORY Updates
- The Cannabis Working Group
- Evidence & Research Updates
- Call for Papers
- Attend IMCCB-25
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- Announcements
- Get Involved in Research

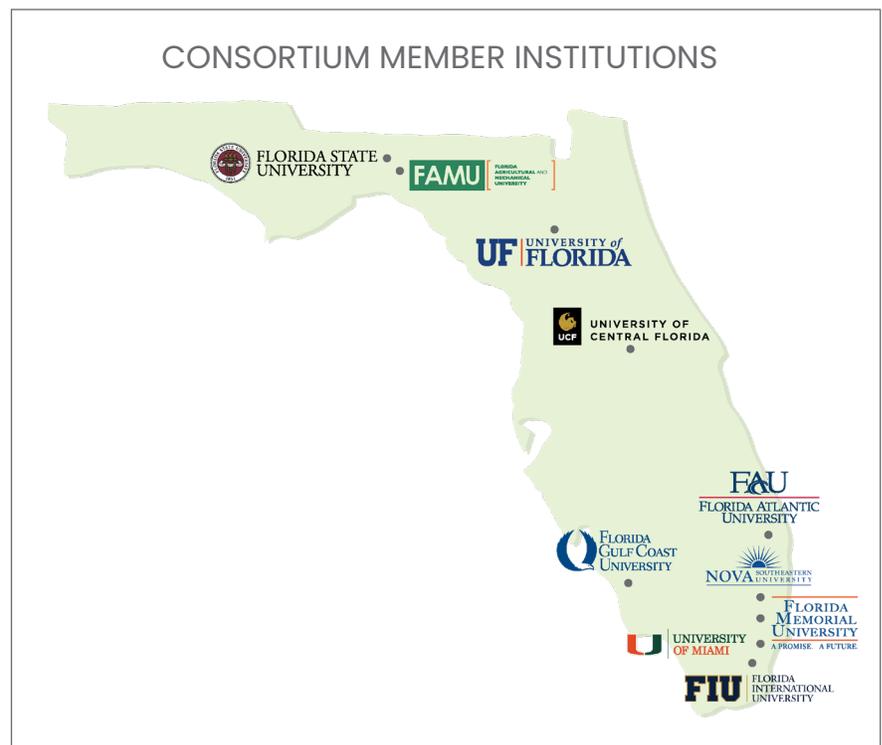


Consortium for  
Medical Marijuana  
Clinical Outcomes Research

To learn more about the Consortium and our programs, visit us at [mmjoutcomes.org](http://mmjoutcomes.org).

### NOVA SOUTHEASTERN UNIVERSITY JOINS THE CONSORTIUM

The Consortium is excited to announce that Nova Southeastern University (NSU) has joined as its tenth member institution. NSU will be represented on the Consortium board by Ken Dawson-Scully, PhD, MSc, FRES.



Dr. Dawson-Scully serves as the Senior Vice President and Associate Provost of the Division of Research and Economic Development at NSU. He is also affiliated faculty in the NSU Department of Psychology and Neuroscience. His research background includes electrophysiology, calcium imaging, neuroprotection, and behavior genetics.

# CCORC 2025: CALL FOR ABSTRACTS AND PROPOSALS NOW OPEN



## CALL FOR ABSTRACTS & PROPOSALS

### CANNABIS CLINICAL OUTCOMES RESEARCH CONFERENCE

MAY 29 - 30, 2025 | ORLANDO, FL

*Learn, Share, and Advance Medical Marijuana Research*



#### CANNABIS AND CANNABINOID RESEARCH

from basic, translational,  
clinical sciences to  
health services and  
behavioral sciences



#### ABSTRACTS SELECTED THROUGH PEER REVIEW

will be published in  
*Medical Cannabis and  
Cannabinoids*

LEARN MORE AT [CCORC.MMJOUTCOMES.ORG](https://ccorc.mmjoutcomes.org)



Consortium for  
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**SUBMIT AN ABSTRACT OR SESSION PROPOSAL**

# 2025 RESEARCH GRANTS PROGRAM

Required Letter of Intent Submissions Open! Deadline: February 3rd, 2025



The Consortium for Medical Marijuana Clinical Outcomes Research has now announced the Request for Proposals (RFP) for the 2025 Research Grants Program.

Researchers interested in applying to the 2025 Research Grants Program must complete the required online [Letter of Intent \(LOI\) Submission Form](#) by 11:59 PM EST, February 3rd, 2025.

[LEARN MORE ABOUT THE 2025 RFP](#)



## MEDICAL MARIJUANA & ME UPDATES

New Wave of M<sup>3</sup> Coming Soon

The Medical Marijuana and Me (M<sup>3</sup>) team is excited to announce development on a new wave of the M<sup>3</sup> study. The new 2025 wave will prioritize recruitment and evaluation of patients with specific conditions such as cancer, pregnancy, inflammatory bowel diseases, or the use of cannabis as an alternative to other medications (e.g. for pain or substance use disorders).

### Access the Current M<sup>3</sup> Data

Researchers from Consortium-member institutions now have the opportunity to access data from a cohort of medical marijuana patients in the Medical Marijuana & Me (M<sup>3</sup>) Study. This includes:

- **Cross-sectional survey data:** The data summarize information on utilization patterns and health outcomes from 632 current MMJ users.
- **Longitudinal survey data:** The data summarize information on utilization patterns and health outcomes from 602 new MMJ users. Survey data were collected at baseline before they initiated MMJ, 3 months, and 9 months.

Explore the current M<sup>3</sup> data and resources on our website at [mmjoutcomes.org/m3study](https://mmjoutcomes.org/m3study).

# MEMORY UPDATES

## Ongoing Linkages Within the MEMORY Database

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.

To better understand the relationship between social determinants of health and the medical marijuana use process, MEMORY will next be expanded through linkage to resources that provide key neighborhood-level information pertaining to income, housing, access to transportation and health care, and similar factors.

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

[Read more about MEMORY >](#)

Time Period	Data Source	Description	Total Number
01/2017 – 06/2024	MMUR	Total certified users of medical marijuana	1,402,758
		Total number of users with at least 1 dispensing	1,338,895
01/2017 – 06/2024	Florida Medicaid Administrative Billing Records	Total number of Medicaid patients	8,960,155
01/2016 – 12/2020	CMS Medicare	Total number of Medicare patients	2,444,071
01/2015 – 03/2024	FL Vital Birth	Total number of births	2,014,725
01/2015 – 03/2024	FL Vital Death	Total number of deaths	2,056,904
01/2015 – 03/2024	FL Vital Fetal Death	Total number of fetal deaths	14,442

*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	295,999	21.10%
CMS Medicare	124,456	8.87%
FL Vital Birth	105,756	7.54%
FL Vital Death	53,882	3.84%
FL Vital Fetal Death	413	0.03%

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

## Ongoing Studies Using MEMORY Data

<b>Sebastian Jugl</b>	<b>Medical marijuana use and the risk of motor vehicle crashes among Medicaid insured medical marijuana patients in Florida</b>	Objective: To investigate the relationship between medical marijuana use and the risk of motor vehicle crashes among Medicaid insured medical marijuana patients in Florida.
<b>Panagiota Kitsanta</b>	<b>Medical Cannabis Use among Pregnant and non-Pregnant Women of Reproductive Age</b>	Objectives: To identify the medical conditions for which MMJ is utilized across pregnant and non-pregnant women of reproductive age, investigate the impact of MMJ on the use of controlled substances, and assess the occurrence of adverse events associated with MMJ use.
<b>Priyanka Kulkarni</b>	<b>Persistence in Medical Marijuana Use Among Certified Residents in the State of Florida</b>	Objective: To evaluate the persistence in medical marijuana use among certified residents in the State of Florida and the predictors thereof.
<b>Priyanka Kulkarni</b>	<b>Adjunctive Medical Cannabis Treatment and Opioid Dose Reduction</b>	Objectives: To evaluate the effect of medical cannabis initiation on opioid dose reduction among patients with chronic non-cancer pain.
<b>Earl Morris</b>	<b>Medical Cannabis Use and Cardiovascular Health in a Vulnerable Population of Medicaid Patients</b>	Objectives: To fill a critical gap in understanding the cardiovascular effects of medical cannabis by leveraging linked data from the Florida Medical Marijuana Use Registry and Medicaid claims.
<b>Matthew Muschett</b>	<b>Delta-9-THC Daily Doses of Patients Dispensed Medical Marijuana: A Cross-Sectional Study of Florida's Medical Marijuana Use Registry</b>	Objective: To describe trends and patterns in estimated daily doses of medical marijuana of a population of medical marijuana users in Florida.
<b>Matthew Muschett</b>	<b>Physician-Reported Adverse Events in Medical Marijuana Users in Florida's Medical Marijuana Use Registry</b>	Objective: To describe adverse events reported by physicians who recommend medical marijuana, and characterize patterns of adverse event reporting in Florida's MMUR.
<b>Nicole Smolinski</b>	<b>Pediatric Patients Using Medical Marijuana in Florida</b>	Objective: To describe the characteristics of patients 19 and under who are certified for MMJ. This includes looking at certification rates by county across the state, yearly rates of certifications, and describing reasons for certification (i.e., qualifying conditions) along with dispensing information.

# THE CANNABIS WORKING GROUP

Join the Next Meeting on January 16th, Welcoming Dr. Alyssa Vanderziel

## CANNABIS WORKING GROUP

Next Meeting:  
January 16th, 2025  
1:00 – 2:00 PM

Welcoming for discussion and Q&A:

Dr. Alyssa Vanderziel  
Investigator  
Henry Ford Health  
Center for Health Policy & Health Services Research



For more information and Zoom access email  
[mmj.outcomes@cop.ufl.edu](mailto:mmj.outcomes@cop.ufl.edu)

The Consortium invites researchers to participate in the Cannabis Working Group, a dynamic and collaborative initiative designed to foster dialogue and knowledge sharing. The group will engage in manuscript discussions, host informal seminars with authors, and provide support for developing cannabis-related manuscripts and applications.

**The Cannabis Working Group will be hosting its next meeting via Zoom on Thursday, January 16th, at 1:00 PM (EST).**

We are delighted to welcome Dr. Alyssa Vanderziel, Investigator at Henry Ford Health, Center for Health Policy & Health Services Research, as our featured researcher. Dr. Vanderziel's research explores the impact of cannabis use during pregnancy, and she will share insights into the key challenges of conducting population studies in maternal and child health.

If you are interested in attending, please join the conversation by clicking the [zoom link here](#). If you would like to attend future meetings, please reach out to [mmj.outcomes@cop.ufl.edu](mailto:mmj.outcomes@cop.ufl.edu).

## EVIDENCE AND RESEARCH ANNOUNCEMENTS

Cannabis and Cannabinoid Research  
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scan code to access this article  
and other resources online



### SHORT REPORT

#### Legalization of Smokable Medical Cannabis and Changes in the Dispensed Amount of $\Delta$ -9 Tetrahydrocannabinol Per Patient

Sebastian Jagt<sup>1,2</sup>, Ruba Sakheya<sup>3</sup>, Melanie Buhmann<sup>4</sup>, Robert L. Cook<sup>5</sup>, Joshua D. Brown<sup>1,3</sup>, Almud C. Wittertsink<sup>1,4</sup>, and Annie J. Goodin<sup>1,4</sup>

**Abstract**  
**Introduction:** Florida's medical cannabis (marijuana) program is among the largest in the United States. Smokable cannabis forms were not legally available in this program until 2019, and five years after other forms of cannabis were available. This study assessed changes in  $\Delta$ -9 tetrahydrocannabinol (THC) dispensed per patient following legalization of smokable cannabis in Florida.  
**Materials and Methods:** This quasi-experimental study used data from the Florida Department of Health Office of Medical Marijuana Use Reports on THC dispensing from April 6, 2018, through March 13, 2020. Certified medical cannabis user during the study period was included. The exposure was the dispensed amount of THC from legal and smokable forms of medical cannabis (spouse identified as 18182), effective as of March 2019. Changes in level and trend of average milligram (mg) of dispensed THC per certified patient with 95% confidence intervals (CIs), before and after 18182, were calculated by fitting a generalized least squares linear model and allowing a 17-week phase-in period.  
**Results:** The number of certified patients increased by 248% from 197,007 (March 22, 2019) to 246,679 (July 19, 2019) and to 323,980 by March 13, 2020. Assuming that a 20% THC concentration in smokable products, there was a significant level increase in the mean weekly dispensed THC amount per certified patient of 18.45 mg (95% CI: 10.269–24.203), translating to a 42.18% increase (95% CI: 33.14–50.28), from the pre-policy period. We noted a continuous increase of 5.62 mg per certified patient per week (95% CI: 4.25–6.98) throughout the 35 weeks following the policy, when compared with the period before. Assuming 10% THC concentration in smokable products, we observed a significant level increase of 33.00 mg (95% CI: 5.11–65.88), corresponding to an increase of 10.70% (95% CI: 1.20–18.85), and a trend increase of 2.23 mg per certified patient per week (95% CI: 1.18–3.29).  
**Discussion:** The expansion of the Florida medical cannabis program to include smokable cannabis forms was associated with a significant increase in the mean amount of weekly dispensed THC per certified patient. Findings suggest that the dispensed amount of THC after legalization of smokable medical cannabis far exceeds the maximum recommended daily dose, based on extrapolation from oral cannabis product dosing recommendations from one expert consensus statement, raising questions about the safety and need for consumer education.  
**Keywords:** medical cannabis; cannabis smoke; THC exposure; cannabis legislation; cannabis and public health

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<sup>1</sup>Address correspondence to: Sebastian Jagt, Department of Pharmaceutical Outcomes and Policy, University of Florida, 9700 MacArthur Blvd, Gainesville, FL 32610, USA. E-mail: [sebastian.jagt@ufl.edu](mailto:sebastian.jagt@ufl.edu)

### Consortium-Affiliated Researchers Publish Work on the Legalization of Smokable Medical Cannabis and Changes in the Dispensed Amount of $\Delta$ -9 Tetrahydrocannabinol Per Patient

This study assessed changes in  $\Delta$ -9 tetrahydrocannabinol (THC) dispensed per patient following legalization of smokable cannabis in Florida. Findings suggest that the dispensed amount of THC after legalization of smokable medical cannabis exceeds the maximum recommended daily dose, based on extrapolation from oral cannabis product dosing recommendations.

[Read the full article here >](#)

## CALL FOR PAPERS: FRONTIERS IN PSYCHIATRY

Submit a Paper on Perinatal Substance Use and Maternal Mental Health

Perinatal substance use is a pressing issue that significantly impacts maternal mental health. This call for papers aims to collect new research that explores the psychiatric and mental health aspects of perinatal substance use, including cannabis as well as other substances, by exploring its effects on mothers during pregnancy and the postpartum period. Research can be submitted to the journal *Frontiers in Psychiatry* or *Frontiers in Global Women's Health*.

Please see the link to the call for papers for more information on requested paper scope and topics.

[LEARN MORE ABOUT THE CALL FOR PAPERS](#)

## THE INTERNATIONAL MEDICAL CANNABIS CONFERENCE

Attend IMCCB-25 at the University of Bern, Switzerland, on February 13th & 14th



**Register Now**

**u<sup>b</sup> UNIVERSITÄT BERN**

**International Medical Cannabis Conference  
University of Bern 2025  
IMCCB-25**

Thursday, February 13<sup>th</sup> to Friday, February 14<sup>th</sup>, 2025  
at Von Roll Campus, Bern, Switzerland

**IMCCB-25**

Building on the success of previous Swiss cannabis congresses, IMCCB-25 aspires to bring together a diverse assembly of leading researchers, clinicians, industry professionals, and other experts and opinion leaders from around the world.

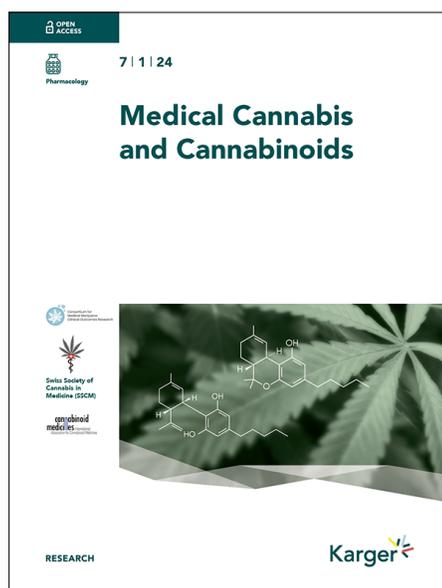
The conference takes place at the University of Bern, Switzerland, February 13–14, 2025.

The deadline to submit an abstract for posters or talks is December 31st, 2024.

[Learn more on the conference website >](#)

# JOURNAL CORNER

Updates from Karger, Publisher of the Consortium's Official Journal



## Medical Cannabis and Cannabinoids at a Glance:

- Official journal of the Consortium for Medical Marijuana Clinical Outcomes Research
- Consortium members are eligible for **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*, visit the [journal website](#) or contact: Alan Tootle, Publication Manager, [a.tootle@karger.com](mailto:a.tootle@karger.com)

## ANNOUNCEMENTS

### Opportunity for Collaboration

Leafwell is seeking research opportunities with academic institutions on funded research projects that leverage their resources and expertise. Leafwell is a telemedicine portal that assists patients in obtaining medical cannabis cards across 36 states in the U.S. This facilitates cross-sectional and longitudinal survey studies using a HIPAA-compliant survey tool.

If you are interested, please reach out to Dr. Mitch Doucette at [mdoucette@leafwell.com](mailto:mdoucette@leafwell.com) for further information.

## GET INVOLVED IN RESEARCH

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

The Consortium invites anyone interested in engaging in medical marijuana research to [register in CARMMA](#) to find collaborators.

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.

[JOIN THE CARMMA DATABASE](#)



Happy Holidays

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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