



# MEDICAMENT

MEDICAL Marijuana rEsearch NewsleTter

SPRING 2020

## Welcome to the Spring 2020 issue of MEDICAMENT,

the Consortium for Medical Marijuana Clinical Outcomes

Research's quarterly newsletter!

You may read our first newsletter

[here](#).

Since December 2019, the Consortium has funded 10 research projects for the 2019 Research Grants Program, announced a request for proposals (RFP) for the 2020 Grants Program, and distributed a statewide provider survey to more than 2,000 licensed medical marijuana (MMJ) providers.



Consortium for Medical Marijuana Clinical Outcomes Research

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

## 2020 RESEARCH PRIORITIES

The Consortium for Medical Marijuana Clinical Outcomes Research is charged by Florida statute to conduct and support “research that contributes to the body of scientific knowledge on the effects of the medical use of marijuana and informs both policy and medical practice related to the treatment of debilitating medical conditions with marijuana”.

Since November 2019, the Consortium, in consultation with a national panel of experts, has created a comprehensive evidence review to guide the research priorities for medical marijuana in the state.

The Consortium Board has approved the following research priorities for 2020:



with particular emphasis on the following conditions  
– chronic pain, anxiety, and symptomatic treatment of cancer



effect of dosing and routes on efficacy and safety; of particular interest are studies that evaluate effects smoking and vaping



with particular focus on medications that are commonly used by patients who seek medical marijuana treatment

## 2019-2020 ANNUAL REPORT



The Consortium also released its first annual report in February this year. The annual report details our accomplishments since the consortium was established and presents plans for future initiatives.

It also summarizes the results of extensive work to evaluate the current state of evidence about the safety and effectiveness of medical marijuana and define research priorities for 2020.

Click [here](#) to read our 2019-2020 Annual Report.



# RESEARCH GRANT UPDATES

## 2019 RESEARCH GRANTS PROGRAM AWARDEES

In December 2019, the Consortium funded 10 research studies from five of the Consortium member institutions including Florida Agricultural and Mechanical University (FAMU), Florida Atlantic University (FAU), Florida Gulf Coast University (FGCU), the University of Florida (UF), and the University of Miami (UM). These studies were selected after external peer review by national experts from a total of 41 submitted proposals.

Funded research includes 4 clinical and 5 translational studies, as well as one product safety study with focus on heavy metals and microplastic contaminants.

Disease conditions addressed in the clinical and translational proposals include brain and muscle injury, drug resistant cancers, chronic spinal cord injury pain, PTSD related sleep disturbances, and chemotherapy-induced and migraine-like pain.



**Efficacy of a controlled short-term trial of CBD ingestion on reducing symptomatic response and facilitating recovery after induced muscle injury**  
PI: Paul A. Borsa, PhD  
University of Florida



**Therapeutic dosing of a cannabinoid (CBD) after mild and moderate brain injury for translation to the clinic**  
PI: Helen Bramlett, PhD  
University of Miami



**Cannabidiol: A potential treatment for migraine-like pain, negative emotion and photophobia**  
PI: Andrea Cippitelli, PhD  
Florida Atlantic University



**Characterizing community and physician-level factors associated with medical marijuana prescriber registration and patient access**  
PI: Joshua Brown, PharmD, PhD, MS  
University of Florida



**Evaluation of medical marijuana for the treatment of chronic spinal cord injury pain using a rat central neuropathic pain model**  
PI: Jacqueline Sagen, PhD, MBA  
University of Miami



**A feasibility study of real-time monitoring of Posttraumatic Stress Disorder related sleep disturbances and other symptoms among patients on medical marijuana**  
PI: Krishna Vaddiparti, PhD, MPE, MSW  
University of Florida



**Marijuana-derived terpenes for the treatment of chemotherapy-induced pain**  
PI: Jenny L. Wilkerson, PhD  
University of Florida



**Rapid identification and quantification of heavy metals and microplastics in CBD oil.**  
PI: Gregory McManus, PhD  
Florida Gulf Coast University



Hyaluronic acid functionalized, Cannabidiol-loaded Mesenchymal Stem Cells (MSC)-Derived Exosomes for Drug Resistant Cancers  
 PI: Mandip Singh Sachdeva, PhD  
 Florida A&M University



The Relationship between State Medical Marijuana Laws, Substance Use and Mental Health Disorder Diagnoses, and Associated Health Care Costs  
 PI: Ali M. Yurasek, PhD  
 University of Florida

For a brief project narrative and the anticipated impact of these awarded proposals, visit our website here.

## 2020 GRANTS PROGRAM

On February 3rd 2020, the Consortium for Medical Marijuana Clinical Outcomes Research announced the 2020 RFP for the Grants Program. As of March, 21 letter of intent applicants were invited to submit full proposals by the April 9th deadline. Awards will be announced July 1st, 2020 on our website.

The next cycle for the grants program will be in early 2021

## PROVIDER SURVEY

The Consortium is launching its Provider Survey to more than 2,000 medical marijuana providers across the state of Florida this spring.

Input from the Provider Survey will help inform research priorities for the Consortium and identify training needs for providers.

If you are a physician actively certifying patients for medical marijuana (within the past 12 months) and did not receive the survey, please contact our team at (352) 273-6984 or [mmj.outcomes@cop.ufl.edu](mailto:mmj.outcomes@cop.ufl.edu)

## COLLABORATE WITH US



The Clinical Core provides infrastructure including a registry portal to support clinical research of medical marijuana outcomes throughout the state with the recruitment of research participants, certified medical marijuana physicians, and industry collaborators.

The Consortium's registry portal will provide a central platform for collaboration opportunities across the various stakeholders interested in medical marijuana research. Beginning in late spring, the formal registry portal will be available for interested stakeholders.

To learn more about collaboration opportunities and the Consortium's upcoming registry portal, visit our website here.

If you are interested in collaborating with the Consortium now, you can email our administrative team directly with you name and contact information at [mmj.outcomes@cop.ufl.edu](mailto:mmj.outcomes@cop.ufl.edu).

# COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT & OUTREACH ACTIVITIES

## RESEARCH AND MEDICAL CANNABINOIDS CME



Dr. Cook addresses the audience during his presentation at the Research and Medical Cannabinoids CME in Ocala. His presentation discussed terminology around medical marijuana and research going on at the University of Florida.



Dr. Wang speaks during the Research Medical Cannabinoids CME about the different types of research ongoing around medical marijuana including findings from an evidence review completed by the Consortium.

As part of the outreach activities of the Consortium, Dr. Robert L. Cook, Consortium Associate Director, and Dr. Yan Wang, Consortium Faculty Lead – Clinical Core, presented at the Research and Medical Cannabinoids CME in Ocala on February 29th, 2020.

The Research and Medical Cannabinoids CME provides an opportunity for all area medical providers and persons interested in medical marijuana in the Ocala area to learn about current research, practical applications, and legal aspects.

Other guest speakers included Dr. John Crump, a licensed medical marijuana physician, Sally Peebles, an attorney serving on the Florida Medical Cannabis Advisory Committee, and Holly Bell, the Director of Cannabis for the state of Florida.

Dr. Cook and Dr. Wang’s presentations shared evidence review findings from the Consortium, and highlighted ongoing research at the University of Florida and across the state.

## EYEOPENER DISCOVERY BREAKFAST

On March 11th, 2020, Dr. Almut Winterstein, Consortium Director; Dr. Robert L. Cook, Consortium Associate Director; and Dr. Amie Goodin, Consortium Faculty Lead – Research Strategy, presented at the University of Florida EyeOpener Discovery Breakfast.

The panel presentation event featured faculty from the UF College of Medicine, College of Pharmacy, and the College of Public Health and Health Professions in a discussion on “Medical Marijuana: What We Know and Need to Know”.

## DON'T WANT TO MISS ANY MEDICAMENT ISSUES?

To sign up for the quarterly MEDICAMENT issues from the Consortium for Medical Marijuana Clinical Outcomes Research, sign up here: [mmjoutcomes.org/newsletter/](http://mmjoutcomes.org/newsletter/)