



**Illinois
Cannabis
Patients
Association**

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More Scientific & Clinical Support for Medical Cannabis

UC Studies Show Cannabis Has Therapeutic Value, Reports to Legislature

Iowa Board of Pharmacy Recommends Making Cannabis a Schedule II Drug

Researchers from the University of California's Center for Medicinal Cannabis Research (CMCR) have found "reasonable evidence that cannabis is a promising treatment" for some specific, pain-related medical conditions. Their findings, presented Feb. 17, 2010 to the California legislature and public, are included in a report available on the CMCR web site at <http://www.cmcr.ucsd.edu>. These are the first results in the United States in 20 years from clinical trials of smoked cannabis

"We focused on illnesses where current medical treatment does not provide adequate relief or coverage of symptoms," explained CMCR director, Igor Grant, MD, Executive Vice-Chair of the Department of Psychiatry at the UCSD School of Medicine. "These findings provide a strong, science-based context in which policy makers and the public can begin discussing the place of cannabis in medical care."

Researchers have completed five scientific clinical trials, with more in progress. These studies showed that cannabis can be helpful in easing pain in selected syndromes caused by injury or diseases of the nervous system and possibly for painful muscle spasms due to multiple sclerosis.

In addition to the CMCR study, the Iowa Board of Pharmacy voted 6-0 to recommend to state lawmakers that cannabis be reclassified as a Schedule II drug and that a state task force be established to study how a medical cannabis law could be implemented in Iowa. Cannabis is currently classified on the federal level as a Schedule I drug, alongside much more harmful substances such as heroin and LSD, as having no proven medical use and a high potential for abuse. Schedule II drugs have accepted medical uses for treatment.

The recommendation comes after the board held four hearings last year to receive public input on the issue. Dozens of doctors, patients, researchers, and advocates testified before the board, and nearly all comments were supportive of medical cannabis. The Iowa House and Senate are each considering bills that would protect from arrest chronically ill patients who use cannabis to alleviate their conditions, though the bills missed the funnel deadline and will not be enacted this year.

The Illinois Cannabis Patients Association – because patients are not criminals