



**SPRING SYMPOSIUM 2016**

## **Medical Cannabis and the Endocannabinoid System: A Review of the Evidence and the Barriers**

**DATE:** *April 20, 2016*

**VENUE:** Georgetown University Hotel and Conference Center

3800 Reservoir Rd. NW, Washington, DC 20057

**COST:** \$35 for members, \$45 for non-members,

***Free for Graduate Students & Postdoctoral Fellows***

[Online Registration](#)

### **Background:**

Locally, the District of Columbia, Maryland, and Delaware now all have regulatory programs allowing patients access to medical cannabis (in the case of Delaware, now actively distributing); however, several other nearby states may join in the coming years (Virginia, West Virginia). All will soon be actively dispensing medicinal cannabis well in advance of detailed mechanistic knowledge of how the mélange of phytocannabinoids and terpenes found in *Cannabis sativa* operate to provide benefits and whether only certain compounds<sup>1</sup> are necessary. Although isolation of the phytocannabinoids of greatest concern (THC and CBD) were discovered in 1960s, it was not until the 1990s that the endocannabinoid system was initially reported and even today, there is a lack of mechanistic understanding despite the recognized benefits from both phyto- and synthetic cannabinoids.

This symposium seeks to provide an overview of the endocannabinoid system and a review of some of the toxicological evidence supporting the use of cannabinoid-based treatments. In

---

<sup>1</sup> *Certain compounds* such as trans- $\Delta^9$ -tetrahydrocannabinol (THC), the primary psychoactive compound in *C. sativa* or cannabidiol (CBD), a non-psychoactive compound of great interest to researchers and which has achieved legendary healing status in certain corners of the Internet.

addition, a review of the barriers that restrict these policies to state-based programs also will be explored. Lunch will be included with registration.

### **Agenda**

8:30 am	Registration opens, breakfast
9:00 am	Introductory welcome comments, logistics (Erik Janus)
9:05 – 10:00 am	<b><u>Keynote Speaker</u></b> Allyn Howlett, PhD (Wake Forest School of Medicine) <i>“The endocannabinoid system of cellular regulation: What we know and what we don’t know”</i>
10:00 – 10:45 am	Jahan Marcu, PhD (Americans For Safe Access)
10:45 – 11:00 am	BREAK
11:00 – 11:45 am	Aron Lichtman, PhD (Virginia Commonwealth University)
11:45 – 12 noon	Q&A/Housekeeping (Erik Janus)
12:00 – 1:30 pm	LUNCH & POSTER SESSION including High School Project winners from Regional Science Fairs
1:30 – 2:15 pm	Joseph Cheer, PhD (University of Maryland School of Medicine) <i>“Endogenous cannabinoids and the pursuit of reward”</i>
2:15 – 3:00 pm	John Hudak, PhD (Brookings Institute) <i>“How the federal government can change decades of ignorance on cannabinoid research”</i>
3:00 – 3:30 pm	PANEL DISCUSSION
3:30 – 3:45 pm	Wrap-up (Erik Janus)

Support for the meeting provided by:

