Minnesota Medical Cannabis Program
Petition to Add a Qualifying Medical Condition

Making your petition

☐ Any person may petition the Minnesota Department of Health ("the department" or "MDH") to add a qualifying medical condition to those listed in subdivision 14 of Minnesota Statutes section 152.22.

Petitions are accepted only between June 1 and July 31, each year. Petitions received outside of these dates will not be reviewed.

Petitions must be sent by certified U.S. mail to:

Minnesota Department of Health
Office of Medical Cannabis
P.O. Box 64882
St. Paul, MN 55164-0882

☐ You must mail the original copy of the petition with an original signature.

☐ Complete each section of this petition and attach all supporting documents. Clearly indicate which section of the petition an attachment is for.

☐ Each petition is limited to one proposed qualifying medical condition.

☐ If a petition does not meet the standards for submission, it will be dismissed without being considered.

☐ If the petition is accepted for consideration, MDH will send the petition documents to the Medical Cannabis Review Panel ("Review Panel"). MDH staff will also provide information to the Review Panel about the proposed qualifying condition, its prevalence, and the effectiveness of current treatments.

Petition review process

☐ The Review Panel meets at least once a year to review all eligible petitions.

☐ MDH will post notice of the public hearing on its medical cannabis website.

☐ After the public meeting and by November 1, the Review Panel will provide the Commissioner of Health its written report of findings.

☐ The Commissioner will approve or deny the petition by December 1 of the year the petition is accepted for consideration.
You may withdraw the petition before the Review Panel's first public meeting of the year by submitting a written statement to the Department stating that you wish to withdraw it.

Section A: Petitioner's Information

Name (First, Middle, Last):

Home Address (Including Apartment or Suite #):

City: State: Zip Code:

Albert Lee

Telephone Number: Email Address:

Section B: Medical Condition You Are Requesting Be Added

Please specify the name and provide a brief description of the proposed qualifying medical condition. Be as precise as possible in identifying the condition. Optional: Include diagnostic code(s), citing the associated ICD-9 or ICD-10 code(s), if you know them. Attach additional pages as needed.

Autoimmune Disease - ICD-10 CM E06.3 Applicable to Hashimoto's Thyroiditis, Hashitoxicosis (Transient), Lymphadenoid Goiter, Lymphocytic Thyroiditis, Struma lymphomatosa. Endocrine Disorders with MCC 643. Endocrine Disorders without MCC/CC. ICD-10 Endocrinology Specialty - E05.0 Graves Disease also known as Toxic Diffuse Goiter - disease that affects the Thyroid. Basically all codes from E00, E01, E02, E03, E04, E05, E06, E07 and 10 on. Under the Endocrine, Nutritional and Metabolic Diseases, for all of these conditions may benefit from Medical Cannabis.
Section C: Symptoms of the Proposed Medical Condition and/or Its Treatment

Describe the extent to which the proposed qualifying medical condition or the treatments cause suffering and impair a person’s daily life. Attach additional pages if needed.

The symptoms that impact life are:
- Inflammation
- Muscle weakness
- Fatigue
- Insomnia
- Fast heart beat
- Dulling eyes (ophthalmopathy)
- Tumors
- Hyperactivity
- Hypertension
- Edema
- Anxiety (panic attacks)
- Agitation
- Depression
- Stress
- Dry eyes
- Fatigue
- Weight gain
- Pale and puffiness
- Feeling cold
- Joint and muscle pains
- Hair loss
- Hard to swallow
- Gastrointestinal issues
- Itchy ness
- Vision problems
- Coordination
- Lack of concentration
- Extreme pain all throughout entire body
- Not having energy at all
- Extreme headaches from temples to forehead, eyebrows, lower eyes area causing blindness because it is so piercing. Which spreads to the sinus/ears reaching throat neck area. Difficult to move or even turn my head. Difficult to walk, or sit, or lie down.

Section D. Availability of conventional medical therapies

Describe conventional medical therapies available and the degree to which they ease the suffering caused by the proposed qualifying medical condition or its treatment. Attach additional pages if needed.

Currently there are no therapies that ease the suffering caused by Hashimoto's Thyroiditis or Graves Disease.
Section C: Symptoms of the Condition

These symptoms have taken over life. Everything is a struggle. Insomnia leads to barely falling asleep at night and then sleeping all day or two to three days at a time. Hand-eye coordination is out the window (looking at my own handwriting makes me cringe). The shooting pain as I force my eyes to focus is excruciating. Cramps throughout my body never end. It’s impossible to be at ease or relaxed, it’s painful to move but if you stop motion for awhile then your body freezes into a statue literally as if rigor mortis sets in. Having to force movement cracks the joints loose making a crunching sound. Having a stiff neck while it feels like someone is choking-strangling you, it’s a struggle to swallow even sometimes the air is blocked forcing you to gasp-and push/pull airflow correctly. It’s challenging enough to breathe— even more so to drink and eat. Having no energy to do anything you prefer someone else do the cooking and serving (and cleaning too). Having Hashimoto’s Thyroiditis, Graves Disease it’s truly impossible to live with. Many nights I wonder if I’ll stop breathing and won’t be able to wake myself up to force the “breathing” to continue. Swelling of the face—Closed Sinus passage, and Swelling of Thyroid gland closes windpipe. There are so many symptoms to contain and control, it’s extremely challenging to “work” with
these symptoms (problems). It's nothing to "juggle" all the conditions while you try and carry on a normal day. Just picture yourself only juggling 3 "balls" - from getting out of bed to the bathroom to the shower to getting dressed to eating to being driven to walking, etc. ... without dropping any of these "ball"s to the floor. How far did you get before losing the battle to keep all 3 balls in the air? Ball one could be "Headache", Ball two would be inflammation, Ball three could be vision - keeping these "named" and under some control may be possible but if one just gets intense you stop everything. And then you slow down to re-start the rhythm - get everything back on track. So it's really not a livable normal day. You keep on trying but when nothing works to keep your body healthy - it's a gloomy fact you're already stuck in quicksand just getting sicker and sicker. Whatever is attacking your Thyroid (or whatever) will continue to destroy your body, traveling from one spot to another. And from each and every documentation of Cancer, whether it be the Heart Association, Cancer Association, Thyroid, Kidney, Pancreas, Lungs, Brain, Liver, and on and on. They all repeat the importance of Cannabis to aid against the battle of Disease.
### Section E: Anticipated benefits from Medical Cannabis

Describe the anticipated benefits from the medical use of cannabis specific to the proposed qualifying medical condition. Attach additional pages if needed.

| Benefits to be accomplished | Reduce inflammation, relieve restlessness, nervousness, tension, anxiety, depression, reduce eye pressure, remove irritability, ease pain, get sleep (regular 7½-8 hours per night), slow down heart rate, reduce bulging eyes, remove tremors, ease agitation, gain energy, reduce swelling of face legs & neck, ease joint & muscle pains, and back aches, leg pain, shoulder ache, headache, stop panic attacks, ease all symptoms. |

### Section F (optional): Scientific Evidence of Support for Medical Cannabis Treatment

It will strengthen your petition to include evidence generally accepted by the medical community and other experts supporting the use of medical cannabis to alleviate suffering caused by the proposed medical disease or its treatment. This includes but is not limited to full text, peer-reviewed published journals or other completed medical studies. Please attach complete copies of any article or reference, not abstracts.

- I have attached relevant articles. (check box if you have attached scientific articles or studies)

### Section G (optional): Letters in Support of Adding the Medical Condition

Attach letters of support for the use of medical cannabis from persons knowledgeable about the proposed qualifying medical condition, such as a licensed health care professional.

- I have attached letters of support. (check box if you have attached letters of support) 11 PAGES
Section 2. Anticipated Benefits

Well now that we have thousands of reports from every health organization world-wide, telling us exactly how cannabis works to heal your body & protect and kill viruses-tumors-cancers etc... it's obvious that the first benefit will be the easing of all the symptoms of any Disease/Disorder/Virus. Once the symptoms disappear—the second benefit will be seen by test results (lab work) showing physical improvement—Smaller goiter or less inflammation or tumor-size. Bloodwork is back to normal readings, which means that the organs or areas of Disease will be functioning correctly. Hence, thyroid will be saved from the mystery of what is attacking it. There are a couple of theories: 1) it could be H.P.V. or 2) E.B.V (Epstein-Barr Virus) or 3) it might be parasitic—but really no one knows—because currently, it is not visible by any of our tests. It's just too microscopic. Currently we only see the damages—the non-functioning of thyroid—and also the what looks like nodules or Tumors and Calcium build-up.

So it's obvious that cannabis is definitely required to heal our condition of all "Thyroiditis" problems. The longer we wait the more injury and destruction that our bodies must endure. Hence, we know due to the facts that medicines are not affecting the condition—even though dosages continues to increase, yet the Disease continues to exist.
Graves' disease is an autoimmune disorder that leads to over activity of the thyroid gland (hyperthyroidism).

Causes

The thyroid gland is an important organ of the endocrine system. It is located in the front of the neck just below the voice box. This gland releases the hormones thyroxine (T4) and triiodothyronine (T3), which control body metabolism. Controlling metabolism is critical for regulating mood, weight, and mental and physical energy.
levels.
If the body makes too much thyroid hormone, the condition is called hyperthyroidism. (An underactive thyroid leads to hypothyroidism.)

**Cause**

The trigger for autoantibody production is unknown. Since Graves' disease is an autoimmune disease which appears suddenly, often quite late in life, it is thought that a viral or bacterial infection may trigger antibodies which cross-react with the human TSH receptor (a phenomenon known as antigenic mimicry, also seen in some cases of type I diabetes. One possible culprit is the bacterium Yersinia enterocolitica (not the same as Yersinia pestis, the agent of bubonic plague). Although there is indirect evidence for the structural similarity between the bacterium and the human thyrotropin receptor, direct causative evidence is limited. Yersinia seems not to be a major cause of this disease, although it may contribute to the development of thyroid autoimmunity arising for other reasons in genetically susceptible individuals. It has also been suggested that Y. enterocolitica infection is not the cause of autoimmune thyroid disease, but rather is only an associated condition; with both having a shared inherited susceptibility. More recently, the role for Y. enterocolitica has been disputed.

Some of the eye symptoms of hyperthyroidism are believed to result from heightened sensitivity of receptors to sympathetic nervous system activity, possibly mediated by increased alpha-adrenergic receptors in some tissues.
Some people may have a genetic predisposition to develop TSH receptor autoantibodies. HLADR (especially DR3) appears to play a significant role.

**Symptoms**

- Breast enlargement in men
- Difficulty concentrating
- Anxiety

- Eyeballs that stick out (exophthalmos)/ Eye irritation and tearing
- Fatigue
- Frequent bowel movements
- Goiter (possible)
- Heat intolerance
- Increased appetite
- Increased sweating
- Insomnia
- Menstrual irregularities in women
- Muscle weakness
- Nervousness
- Rapid or irregular heartbeat (palpitations or arrhythmia)
- Restlessness and difficulty sleeping
- Shortness of breath with exertion
- Tremor
- Weight loss (rarely, weight gain)

1996 survey study respondents reported a significant decline in memory, attention, planning, and overall productivity from the period 2 years prior to Graves' symptoms onset to the period when hyperthyroid. In addition, hypersensitivity of the central nervous system to low-grade hyperthyroidism can result in an anxiety disorder before other Graves' disease symptoms emerge. Panic disorder has been reported to precede Graves' hyperthyroidism by 4 to 5 years in some cases, although it is not known how frequently this occurs.
The two signs that are truly 'diagnostic' of Graves' disease (i.e., not seen in other hyperthyroid conditions) are exophthalmos (protuberance of one or both eyes) and pretibial myxedema, a rare skin disorder with an occurrence rate of 1-4%, that causes lumpy, reddish skin on the lower legs. Graves' disease also causes goitre (an enlargement of the thyroid gland) that is of the diffuse type (spread throughout the gland). This phenomenon also occurs with other causes of hyperthyroidism, though Graves' disease is the most common cause of diffuse goiter. A large goiter will be visible to the naked eye, but a smaller goiter (very mild enlargement of the gland) may be detectable only by physical exam. Occasionally, goiter is not clinically detectable but may be seen only with CT or ultrasound examination of the thyroid.

Graves' disease Symptoms

The onset of Graves' disease symptoms is often insidious: the intensity of symptoms can increase gradually for a long time before the patient is correctly diagnosed with Graves' disease, which may take months or years.

Traditional treatment: (1) anti-thyroid medication (2) radioactive iodine, which kills the overactive thyroid, cells (3) removal of thyroid gland surgically.
Marijuana is used to treat some of the symptoms of Graves' disease not the disease itself! The patient needs to see an endocrinologist for a positive diagnosis. Symptoms that can be treated with medical marijuana are:
- reduce eye pressure
- reduce anxiety
- relieve insomnia
- reduce irritability
- encourage appetite/weight gain
- relieve restlessness / nervousness
- slow or relax heart rate

**Recommendations:** Sativa strains for daytime and Indica strains for late afternoon and evening. Alternatively, a 50 percent sativa:50 percent indica for all day.
Reefer Madness, or a Promising Treatment for Thyroid Disease?

June 5, 2014 by Dana Trentini | 101 Comments

Emmy-winning talk show host Ricki Lake teamed up with filmmaking partner Abby Epstein to raise awareness about the medicinal effects of cannabis in their documentary *Weed the People*. In 2008, Ricki and Abby released the award-winning documentary *The Business of Being Born*.

I welcome celebrity health coach Jen Wittman to Hypothyroid Mom to share her findings on the benefits of CBD oil in the treatment of thyroid disease. She is a great supporter of her clients Ricki and Abby in their efforts to spread awareness about the benefits of medical cannabis.

Written by Jen Wittman, Founder of *Thyroid Loving Care*

As a celebrity health coach, I have had the great fortune to have access to doctors and practitioners on the forefront of healing. Some of my well-known clients are avid health advocates in their own right and have introduced me to burgeoning alternative and complementary approaches to healing.
This past summer, I got a crash course in the medicinal properties of CBD oil, a derivative of cannabis, from two of my clients who, amongst other things, make documentaries on important healthcare issues. Ricki Lake and Abby Epstein are a dynamic duo always pushing the boundaries of what we commonly understand about our health from a Western healthcare perspective, so when they started talking to me about CBD oil, I sat up and listened. What I learned floored me. It’s not what you think and it’s certainly worth a look.

What is CBD oil?

Cannabis or marijuana, contains thousands of cannabinoid compounds, including the most well-known, THC, which causes the “high” that people experience when they smoke or ingest marijuana.

Cannabidiol—CBD—is another cannabinoid compound in cannabis that has been shown to have significant medical effects, but doesn’t make people feel “stoned.” When isolated from the plant, CBD oil contains very little or no THC. And, it’s actually thought to counteract the psychoactive properties of THC. Many scientists believe that CBD is responsible for the mellow, calm feeling many people experience when using marijuana.

The important takeaway here is that CBD oil provides the medical benefits of cannabis without the high. It’s being used to treat everything from skin conditions like acne and eczema to neurological diseases like Huntington’s and Parkinson’s to mental illness like anxiety and PTSD. It’s also showing incredible potential to fight cancer, autoimmune disorders, and inflammation.

Of course, as a health coach, I’m immediately skeptical of cure-alls that seem too good to be true. The list of ailments CBD oil supposedly treats seems to be growing by the day. How can it treat so many different problems with so few side effects? (I mean, are the researchers all just high, or what?!) The endogenous cannabinoid system, named after the plant that led to its discovery, is a previously unknown physiological system that is central to the health and healing of humans and many animals. Endocannabinoids and their receptors occur naturally throughout the entire body: in the brain, all the organs, connective tissues, glands, and immune system. That’s right: your body produces cannabinoid substances naturally. The receptors have different functions based on where they are in the body, but they all have one common goal: homeostasis, or maintaining stability in the face of external factors.

This isn’t fringe science. If you search PubMed (the leading online database for scientific papers) for the word “cannabinoid,” you’ll find more than 17,000 references. That’s more than two papers published per day over the last 20 years!

And it explains why cannabis and its derivatives (called phytocannabinoids if they come from plants) can affect so many different areas of health.

The history of medical cannabis

As I mentioned, there is a wealth of scientific research on the successful use of cannabis for a variety of medicinal purposes. Cannabis has been used as medicine for thousands of years—and has only been banned from use for the past 70 years or so. There are political reasons as to why cannabis fell out of favor in the early 20th century. And, when larger groups started using the plant recreationally in the 1960s, its social importance and understanding changed dramatically.
In the United States, marijuana is classified as a Schedule I drug, which states that these are dangerous drugs with no medical benefit and also includes LSD and heroin. But the U.S. government itself (department of Health and Humans Services) holds a patent on the use of certain cannabinoïds to treat neurodegenerative diseases including Alzheimer’s, Parkinson’s, and HIV dementia. Many medical marijuana advocates believe this patent expressly contradicts the government’s own Schedule I classification of the drug.

In other words, advocates believe that the government can’t have it both ways: patenting the drug for certain medical uses and claiming that it has no medical benefit.

Groups around the country have long argued that medical marijuana should be legal. As of 2014, 21 states and the District of Columbia have legalized medical marijuana in some or all cases, and two states, Colorado and Washington, have legalized general marijuana use.

Cannabis use for autoimmune, inflammation & thyroid diseases

Despite the legal standing of cannabis and all its derivatives, science marches on! As I mentioned above, thousands of studies are conducted and published each year around different aspects of cannabinoids and their medical uses.

I believe that cannabis oil and juicing will likely emerge in the next few years as acceptable, viable, and hopefully legal options for reducing inflammation, managing thyroid cancer and suppressing the autoimmune response.

Scientific studies have found that THC reduces inflammatory responses in people with autoimmune disorders—but that too much suppresses immune function and makes the body susceptible to other disease.

Reports haven’t yet conclusively found any connection between cannabis and healing thyroid problems, but many have found that cannabis can alleviate many of the symptoms associated with thyroid disorders, including digestive problems, mood problems, sleep problems and more. There’s quite a bit of emerging research on the role of cannabinoids in the regulation of energy balance in many different endocrine systems that could prove very helpful for thyroid conditions.

How do we get more research done on CBD oil’s effects on thyroid & autoimmune disease?

The documentary Ricki & Abby are currently producing, Weed The People, focuses mainly on CBD oil’s effects on cancer, but through friends’ experiences and in working with my clients, I’ve seen firsthand the astonishing effects CBD oil can have.

Is it a controversial topic? No doubt about it! But I personally believe that if a substance could potentially save even a few children (and adults) from the scourge of cancer (not to mention the pain and suffering of thyroid and autoimmune disease), we should at least examine the possibility of its use in health care.

I strongly encourage you to go and watch their video. It will tug at your heart, make you want to go hug your own babies, and/or remind you of someone you love who is battling cancer or disease. (It had me in tears!) If you feel moved, please consider making a donation of any amount to the IndieGoFund to make

Could thiamine be the fix for thyroid fatigue?

Help Save Babies on World Thyroid Day

Married to Hashimoto’s: Where’s the Woman I Married?

My Hashimoto’s Journey: The 2 Most Important Questions I Know

My Thyroid on Fire: A Story in 15 Glimpses

5 Tips for Dealing with Hypothyroidism

7 Secrets of a Thyroid Health Coach

8 Hormone-Balancing Superfoods & Recipes

When the Hashimoto’s ‘Hard Life’ Turns into the Healing ‘Good Life’

Thyroid Patients: 7 Keys to Successfully Restoring and Revitalizing Your Health

Strangely, Acid May Ease The Burn

From “Happy Thanksgiving” to “Happy New Year” for Your Thyroid

Is your thyroid a pain in the butt? Healing chronic pain

Reversing Autoimmune Thyroid Disease Is Possible

Living with a Hypothyroid Wife

Breakfasts that rebalance our hormones

10 Ways I Healed from a Decade of Chronic Illness

The Thyroid Book That Changed My Life

Two Vital Nutrients for Your Thyroid: Not the Usual Suspects

Dysbiosis and Thyroid Dysfunction. All Roads Lead To The Microbiome

Hypothyroid Mom’s 3rd Anniversary GIVEAWAYS

Mommy has thyroid cancer

Graves’ disease gal in London

the cold-hard truth about hashimoto’s symptoms

Presidential Candidate Treated with Natural Desiccated Thyroid – medicine should be allowed to all

thyroid: signs, symptoms and selenium

hello hashimoto’s

Your Healthy Pregnancy with Thyroid Disease – Share Your Story for New Book!

http://hypothyroidmom.com/reefer-madness-or-a-promising-treatment-for-thyroid-disease/ 6/21/2016
sure these voices get heard. Even a small donation helps create awareness to further research on CBD and its effects on cancer, thyroid & autoimmune disease.

This project is near and dear to my heart as I was honored to go behind the scenes one day with Abby and Ricki and saw their dedication, sacrifice, and thoroughness in finding and filming the experts they interviewed. I personally believe in this film and the promise of CBD oil as another important tool in our healing arsenal, and that’s why I thought this was an important topic to discuss in the thyroid and autoimmune community. Through advocacy for more research when it comes to thyroid and autoimmune disease, we are able to get closer to discovering what’s available to us for supporting the body, reversing disease and eliminating symptoms.

Full disclosure here: I have not tried CBD oil for my own condition, but I’ve become convinced of its potential through what I’ve witnessed first-hand with its effects on others.

After interviewing knowledgeable doctors, I would not hesitate to encourage anyone to look into this as a treatment option under the supervision of a physician, a health coach like me, or naturopath who understands CBD oil. For a medicine that’s thousands of years old, it’s truly on the cutting edge of Western medical science.

As I always say, we must be our own advocates for health, and if we as a community see a potential for healing that our government, our medical community, or our culture doesn’t see, we need to make our voices heard.

Have you or anyone you know used CBD oil? Have you considered it? Do you have questions?

I'd love to get a discussion going in the comments below, but due to the sometimes polarizing nature of this topic, please remember to respect others opinions and be civil in your replies!

Special Note: Some of my clients have volunteered to allow me and a small team of doctors I put together to track their progress as they use CBD oil to eliminate their symptoms. If you are interested in learning more about this study or participating yourself, please contact Team TLC. I’ve also put together a resources page of my sources for this article if you’d like to learn more about CBD oil.

About Jen Wittman

Jen Wittman is a Certified Holistic Health Expert & Coach, specializing in thyroid and autoimmune conditions. She provides one-of-a-kind, long-lasting health and healing overhauls at Thyroid Loving Care. She is author of the book, Healing Hashimoto's Naturally and popular guides, The Super-Mom's Guide to Managing Life with Thyroid & Autoimmune Disease without Going Bonkers & A Partner's Guide to Thyroid & Autoimmune Disease: Understand Her Struggle & How To Help. And, she is host of ThyroidFoodie.tv and Thyroid Radio.

After reversing Hashimoto's, an autoimmune thyroid disease herself, Jen created The Thyroid Fix in 6, a simple 6-week self-care strategy to reverse thyroid, autoimmune and inflammatory disease. This online, interactive thyroid health coaching program, provides a practical, real-world strategy to reversing disease & includes a 6-week step-by-step action plan, guides to thyroid basics, testing, treatments, and symptoms and a 4-week meal plan + cookbook.
Sect ion D & Letters in Support of Adding Medical Condition Autoimmune Disease

By Dr. Mercola (May 19, 2015)

The use of marijuana for medical purposes is now legal in 23 states and 29 of new, 9 states have pending legislation or ballot measures to legalize medical marijuana. Estimates are that between 35% and 45% of Americans are in favor of medical cannabis, and nearly 60% support complete legalization of marijuana.

And doctors agree. In 2014, a survey found that the majority of physicians—56% favor nationwide legalization of medical cannabis, with support being highest among oncologist and hematologist.

However, many families are still unable, legally or otherwise, to obtain this herbal treatment. Families with a sick child are being forced to split up, just so that one parent can live in a place where medical cannabis can be legally obtained in order to help their child.

A major part of the problem lies at the federal level, where marijuana is classified as a Schedule I controlled substance—a category reserved for the most dangerous of drugs, including heroin, LSD, and ecstasy.

According to the 1970 Controlled Substance Act, Schedule I drugs are defined as those having "high potential for abuse" and "no accepted medical uses." Research to date shows that marijuana meets neither of these criteria.

The featured documentary covers some of the most recent research on medical applications of marijuana. In light of recent science, it's clear that marijuana does not meet Schedule I criteria and it's high time to revise this classification.
Prominent Physicians Shifting Their Stance on Medical Marijuana

A number of prominent physicians are reversing their opinions about marijuana's medicinal utility. A recent example is U.S. Surgeon General Vivek Murthy, who in a recent CBS interview acknowledged that marijuana may be useful for certain medical conditions.

CNN's Chief Medical Correspondent and neurosurgeon Sanjay Gupta also made a highly publicized reversal on his marijuana stance after the production of his two-part series "Weed."

The U.S. seems to want it both ways. The federal government classifies marijuana as a Schedule 1 drug. But in October 2013, the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) obtained a patent for marijuana as a "neural protectant," claiming it can protect your brain against stroke and trauma.

How can HHS own a patent for the medical use of cannabis while the federal government still classifies it as an unsafe drug with no medical value?

The U.S. Has Much to Learn from Israel

The U.S. is far behind many other countries in harnessing the healing power of marijuana. Israel is the marijuana research capital of the world, thanks to Dr. Raphael Mechoulam, who was the first to investigate the medicinal properties of marijuana way back in the 1960s and the first to isolate THC and CBD.
Section 2 - Support Letters to Add
Medical Condition
Autoimmune Disease

Israel is now using marijuana to treat cancer, epilepsy, Parkinson's Disease, Tourette's syndrome, and many other conditions. As shown in the film, even residents of Israel nursing homes are being treated with marijuana.

But in the US, the fact that marijuana remains classified as a dangerous Schedule 1 drug has halted scientific progress. American scientists have to jump through frustrating array of hoops, which are expensive and time consuming and ultimately discourage the majority of researchers from conducting marijuana studies.

- Marijuana's Miracle Molecules?

Cannabinoids -

Cannabinoids are the general category of active chemical compounds found in marijuana, or cannabis. Cannabinoids can be separated into several subclasses - two of which are THC and CBD.

CBD is the most abundant cannabinoid, contributing up to 40% of cannabis resin. Cannabinoids produce biological effects because, just like opiates, interacting with your opiate receptors, cannabinoids interact with specific receptors located in your cell membranes.

The therapeutic and psychoactive properties of marijuana occur when particular cannabinoids activate their associated receptors, and the effects depend on the areas of your body and brain in which they interact.

However, selectively breeding pot for high THC has diminished its medicinal value & increased its
likelihood of producing adverse effects. Although research is still in its infancy, the cannabinoids appear to work in tandem with each other, balancing one another out. According to the University of Washington:

"CBD may actually have anti-anxiety effects and decrease the psychoactive effects of THC.

This means that a plant with a greater percentage of CBD may reduce the intensity of the effects of the THC, which in effect lessens the potency of the plant."

Use of a cannabis plant with less CBD has been shown to have an increased psychological impact and result in unwanted effects such as anxiety.

So, by breeding out the CBD, Exit growers have created more intense psychoactive effects that lack any modulation, which is why some people experience adverse reactions such as anxiety and even psychosis. Mother Nature created a delicately balanced chemical system in this plant, which humans have upset with their tampering and manipulation.

- like it or not, you are wired to respond to marijuana.

The fact that there’s a plant that acts on your body's own cannabinoid receptors is a phenomenon Dr. Mechoulam calls "weird of nature." He's referring to the fact that we didn't develop these receptors in order to smoke pot—We have them because we have our own endogenous cannabinoid system.
Section Title: Letters in Support to AIDS Medical Condition
Auto Immune Disease

Your body makes its own cannabinoids, similar to those found in marijuana, but present in much smaller amounts. These endocannabinoids appear to perform signaling operations similar to your body's neurotransmitters, such as dopamine and serotonin. Cannabinoid receptors can be found on cell membranes throughout your body—indeed, scientists now believe they may represent the most widespread receptor system. Two receptor types have been identified:

- CB1: Cannabinoid receptors that are extremely prolific in your brain (excluding your brain stem) but also present in your heart, lungs, kidneys, liver, pancreas, and other parts of your body.
- CB2: Cannabinoid receptors primarily found in your immune system.

Your endocannabinoid system is thought to help regulate nearly every physiological process and plays an important role in maintaining homeostasis—and yet, it's not taught in medical school! We've shared this important system with all vertebrate species and even sea squirts for more than 600 million years. Science today suggests that your endocannabinoid system is integral to the following biological processes and chances are, we've barely scratched the surface: Immune Function, Inflammation, Energy Intake and Storage, Appetite Control/Cravings, Nutrient Transport, Cellular Communication, Emotional Balance, Reproduction, Pain Sensation, Sleep, Bone growth, Memory.
The growing list of illnesses cannabis can treat

The fact that your body is replete with cannabinoids receptors, key to so many biologic functions, is why there's such enormous medical potential for cannabis. If it can help restore homeostasis, it will prove itself as a very powerful therapy. CBD may be the most potent and beneficial of the cannabinoids, particularly for tamping down an overactive immune system, as in the case with autoimmune diseases. CBD also has antipsychotic properties but does not get you high or stoned.

The response of cancer patients to cannabis treatment is encouraging. Not only does cannabis help with the unpleasant side effects of traditional chemotherapy (including pain, nausea, and insomnia), but the cannabis itself appears to be a natural chemotherapy agent. Over the past several years, dozens of studies point to marijuana's effectiveness against many different types of cancers, including brain cancer, breast & prostate, lung, thyroid, colon, pituitary, melanoma, and leukemia. It fights cancers by at least two mechanisms, making it difficult for cancers to grow and spread.

1. Cannabis is pro-apoptotic, meaning it triggers apoptosis (cellular suicide) of cancer cells, while leaving healthy cells untroubled.
2. Cannabis is anti-angiogenic, meaning it cuts off a tumor's blood supply.

This may explain why chronic pot smokers have
Section 6: Letters of Support for Medical Condition
autoimmune Disease

such surprisingly low rates of lung cancer and other cancers, especially when compared to cancer rates among smokers. In addition to cancer, cannabis has been found effective against an ever growing list of illnesses. Research has been limited but we may be turning over a new leaf. The number will likely grow soon as the evolving political climate becomes more favorable to cannabis research.

Other illnesses already added for medical therapies: Mental disorders, including PTSD, mood disorders, & Tourette's Syndrome, Multiple Sclerosis, and other Autoimmune issues, Seizures, Arthritis, Obesity, Heart Disease, Degenerative neurological disorders, dystonia, & tremors...

Science Shows Marijuana Much Safer Than Prescription Drugs

Many prescription drugs are known to be dangerous. Pharmaceuticals in general are among the leading causes of death in the U.S., and some drugs have killed tens of thousands of individuals. The painkiller Vioxx is one classic example that killed over 60,000 before being pulled off the market. According to Dr. Margaret Gedde, M.D., Ph.D., 20-year founding member of Gedde Whole Health and the Clinicians' Institute of Cannabis Medicine, you don't have to look far to find research confirming that cannabis is safer and less toxic than many prescription drugs.
These includes liver and kidney toxicity, gastrointestinal damage, nerve damage, and of course death. Moreover, cannabinoids often work when pharmaceutical drugs fail, so not only is cannabis safer but it is typically more effective. One of the strongest areas of research regarding marijuana's health benefit is pain control.

In 2010, The Center for Medical Cannabis Research (CMCR) released a report on 14 clinical studies about the use of marijuana for pain, most of which were FDA approved, double-blinded, and placebo-controlled. The report revealed that marijuana not only controlled pain, but in many cases it does better than pharmaceuticals.

If you compare prescription painkillers (opioids) to marijuana, marijuana is much safer. Opioid painkillers can lead to slowed respiration and death. By contrast, overdose of cannabis can't kill you because there are no cannabinoid receptors in your brain stem, the region of your brain that controls your heartbeat and respiration. The statistics speak for themselves. In 2014, prescription painkillers were responsible for 16,600 deaths, and painkillers claimed more women's lives than cocaine and heroin combined. In the CDC's Public Health Reports study, prescription drugs were involved in fatal car crashes at three times the rate of marijuana.
Section A - Letters of Support to Add Medical Condition: Autoimmune Disease

In states where medical marijuana is legal, overdose deaths from opioids like morphine, oxycodone, and heroin decreased by an average of 20 percent after one year, 25 percent after two years, and up to 33 percent after five years (and six) as noted by Dr. Godle. "There's an ongoing death rate from use of pain medications as prescribed. So, even as prescribed, they're highly dangerous and they are open to abuse. As far as medications used in the pediatric population to control seizures, there are also severe toxicities to organs. Many of them are very sedative. The children become unable to function or really to interact because of the sedative effects. Other medications have a side effect of rage and behavioral problems.

Unprovoked rage is actually a known side effect of some of the anti-seizure meds. Cannabis, and in particular cannabidiol, has none of these issues. No toxicities. As a child gets accustomed to it, the sleepiness from cannabis wears off, and the child can be very alert and functional. Once you put them against each other, there really is no comparison in terms of safety."

*Education is Key*

Because of the issues already discussed, it can sometimes be challenging finding accurate, science-based information about cannabis. Dr. Godle offers the following suggestions for obtaining reliable information →
"The reason why it's difficult is that the preponderance of research funds have been to show harm related to cannabis as a drug of abuse. Look for real research that's there on the endocannabinoid system and the ways marijuana - cannabis has been helping people for centuries. And look into history of medical practice; that's where the information starts to come out."

She also recommends looking to current clinical practice, which is possible in states where cannabis is now safely and legally accessible. This is where you can learn more about optimal dosing and protocols found effective for various conditions. Other resources that may be helpful include the following:

* Cancer.gov - the US government's cancer website, contains research relating to the use of cannabis
* PubMed is a searchable public resource containing a vast amount of medicinal literature, including studies involving cannabis.
* The Journal of Pain is a publication by the American Pain Society with a long list of studies on the pain-relieving effects of cannabis.
* National Institute on Drug Abuse is an excellent resource, including information about preclinical & clinical trials underway to test marijuana & various extracts for the treatment of a number of diseases, including Autoimmune Diseases such as multiple sclerosis, Alzheimer's disease, inflammation, pain, and
Section II - Letters in Support to Add Medical Condition
Auto Immune Disease

I also recommend listening to my previous interview with Dr. Frankel, in which he discusses many of the medical benefits of cannabis.

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Please visit the website to see all videos discussed in this public letter and to follow links within the article.
Section H: Acknowledgement and Signature

Please Note: Any individually identifiable health information relating to any past, present, or future health condition or health care contained in this Petition is classified as a health record under Minnesota Statutes §144.291, and is not subject to public disclosure.

I certify that the information provided in this petition is true and accurate to the best of my knowledge.

[Signature]

DATE (mm/dd/yyyy)

To obtain this information in a different format, call:
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