



Pot –vs- the SuperBug

Pot Compounds Reduce Multi-Drug Resistant Infections, Study Says Cannabinoids Show "Exceptional" Antibacterial Activity Against MRSA

Novara, Italy: The administration of natural plant cannabinoids can significantly reduce the spread of drug-resistant bacteria, including methicillin-resistant *Staphylococcus aureus* (aka MRSA), according to preclinical data to be published in the Journal of Natural Products.

Investigators at Italy's Università del Piemonte Orientale and Britain's University of London, School of Pharmacy assessed the antibacterial properties of five cannabinoids - THC, CBD (cannabidiol), CBG (cannabigerol), CBC (cannabichromine), and CBN (cannabinol) - against various strains of multidrug-resistant bacteria, including MRSA.

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California Attorney General Issues Guidelines Recognizing Patients' Medi-Pot Use

Sacramento, California, USA: State and local law enforcement should not arrest state qualified patients who possess, cultivate, or travel with medical marijuana, according to new guidelines issued this week by the California Attorney General's office.

According to the guidelines, authorized patients and primary caregivers may possess up to eight ounces of dried marijuana, and may maintain no more than six mature plants or 12 immature plants, unless a doctor recommends more. However, a recent decision by California's 4th District Court of Appeals determined that legislators could not legally impose limits on the amount of medical cannabis patients may possess. State Attorney General Jerry Brown is appealing the decision.

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Denver Advisory Panel Recommends No Arrests of Marijuana Smokers During Democratic Convention

Denver, Colorado, USA: A city panel appointed by Denver Mayor John Hickenlooper has officially recommended that the Denver Police Department "refrain from arresting, detaining, or issuing a citation" to any adult for the possession of up to one ounce of marijuana during the 2008 Democratic National Convention in Denver next week.

The Denver Marijuana Policy Review Panel's recommendation comes in response to news reports in which a spokesman for the Denver Police Department said police would be arresting or citing adults for marijuana possession during the Democratic National Convention despite ballot measures approved by Denver voters calling on them to refrain from

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The Willamette Valley NORML News Report

is an all-volunteer, not-for-profit project to record and broadcast news, announcements and information about cannabis law reform.

The W-V-NORML News Report is produced by the Eugene, OREGON chapter of NORML, the National Organization for the Reform of Marijuana Laws

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Check 'em out on-line! *visit:*

WillametteValleyNORML.org

A Voice for Responsible Marijuana Smokers

Since its founding in 1970, NORML has provided a voice in the public policy debate for those Americans who oppose marijuana prohibition and favor an end to the practice of arresting marijuana smokers. A nonprofit public-interest advocacy group, NORML represents the interests of the tens of millions of Americans who smoke marijuana responsibly. During the 1970s, NORML led the successful efforts to decriminalize minor marijuana offenses in 11 states and significantly lower marijuana penalties in all others.

The oldest and largest marijuana legalization organization in the country, NORML maintains a professional staff in Washington, DC, and a network of volunteer state and local [NORML Chapters](#) across the country. Check 'em out, and find the one nearest you!

The NORML mission is to move public opinion sufficiently to achieve the repeal of marijuana prohibition so that the responsible use of cannabis by adults is no longer subject to penalty.

When marijuana is enjoyed responsibly, subjecting users to harsh criminal and civil penalties provides no public benefit and causes terrible injustices. For reasons of public safety, public health, economics and justice, the prohibition laws should be repealed to the extent that they criminalize responsible marijuana use. **NORML, the National Organization for the Reform of Marijuana Laws – is located at 1600 K Street, NW, Suite 501, Washington, DC 20006-2832. Phone (202) 483-5500, Fax: (202) 483-0057 or visit: www.norml.org**

Today Willamette Valley NORML joins the fight to reform state and federal marijuana laws, whether by voter initiative or through the elected legislatures. W-V-NORML will serve as an informational resource to media on marijuana-related stories, providing a perspective to offset the [anti-marijuana propaganda](#) from the government; lobby state and federal legislators in support of reform legislation; publish a regular [newsletter](#); host an informative web site; and serve as the umbrella group for a regional network of citizen-activists committed to ending marijuana prohibition and legalizing marijuana.

Along with their parent organization, W-V-NORML will sponsor public advertising campaigns to better educate the public about marijuana and alternatives to current marijuana policy; provide legal assistance and support to victims of the current laws; and promote relevant research.

W-V-NORML supports the right of adults to use marijuana responsibly, whether for [medical](#) or [personal](#) purposes. All penalties, both civil and criminal, should be eliminated for responsible use. W-V-NORML also advocates the legalization of [hemp](#) (non-psychoactive marijuana) for industrial use. **To find out more, like how you can help, call, write or visit our website. You'll be glad you did!**

<continued from SUPERBUG, page 1 > "All compounds showed potent antibacterial activity," authors determined. Researchers noted that cannabinoids showed "exceptional" antibacterial activity against EMERSA-15 and EMERSA-16, the major epidemic MRSA strains occurring in UK hospitals.

Authors concluded: "Although the use of cannabinoids as systemic antibacterial agents awaits rigorous clinical trials, ... their topical application to reduce skin colonization by MRSA seems promising. ... Cannabis sativa ... represents an interesting source of antibacterial agents to address the problem of multidrug resistance in MRSA and other pathogenic bacteria."

According to a 2007 study published in the Journal of the American Medical Association, MRSA is responsible for more than 18,500 hospital-stay related deaths each year.

For more information, please contact Paul Armentano, NORML Deputy Director. Full text of the study, "Antibacterial cannabinoids from cannabis sativa: A structure-activity study," will appear in the Journal of Natural Products.

<continued from CONVENTION, page 1 > doing so. In 2005, Denver voters approved a ballot measure making possession of small amounts of marijuana legal for adults, and in 2007, voters approved a measure designating adult marijuana possession Denver's "lowest law enforcement priority."

"If police expect the taxpayers to cover their \$1.2 million in overtime during the Democratic National Convention, it is only fair that they respect the laws adopted by those taxpayers," said panel member Mason Tvert, who led the campaigns for the two ballot measures. "We hope police will not defy the people of this city or its mayor when the international spotlight hits the Mile High City next week." Tvert continued, "There will be plenty for police to do during the DNC aside from arresting or citing adults who are simply making the safer choice

to use marijuana instead of alcohol."

For more information, contact NORML Executive Director Allen St. Pierre or SAFER director Mason Tvert or call 303-861-0033.

<continued from PAST USE, page 1 > The guidelines encourage patients to participate in the California Department of Public Health's registration program to obtain a medical marijuana identification card. Currently, the cities of San Diego and San Bernardino are challenging the legality of the ID-card program.

Under the new guidelines, the distribution and non-profit sales of medical cannabis is permitted by qualified "collectives and cooperatives." By contrast, the guidelines warn that 'storefront' business that engage in the for-profit sales of medical marijuana "are likely operating outside the protections" of state law.

"We are not going to harass legitimate clubs," Brown said. "[But we will] target ... those clubs that are part of a larger criminal operation."

Full text of the Attorney General's guidelines.

For more information, please contact Keith Stroup, NORML Legal Counsel, at (202) 483-5500, or Dale Gieringer, CA NORML Coordinator, at (415) 563-5858.

California Attorney General Jerry Brown Privately Circulated Draft Medical Marijuana Guidelines

Sacramento, CA: According to recent media reports, Attorney General Edmund G. (Jerry) Brown privately circulated to top state and law enforcement officials the "final draft" of his long-awaited rules for ensuring "the security and non-diversion of marijuana grown for medical use." These, when finalized, will be the first definitive guidelines provided by the state of California in the decade plus since Prop. 215 was approved by the voters.

According to the attorney general, these guidelines are intended to accomplish three objectives: to avoid diversion of marijuana grown for authorized patients; to help law enforcement understand and apply the law consistently throughout the state; and to "help patients and caregivers ...cultivate, transport, possess, and use marijuana under California law."

Brown, who earlier announced his intension to appeal the recent Kelly decision (People v. Kelly), holding SB 420, the act passed by the legislature that placed limits on the amount of medical marijuana a patient could legally possess, to be an unconstitutional infringement on the power of voters to adopt state policy via initiative. Brown has consistently indicated his opposition to private dispensaries, and his draft guidelines reportedly reflect that position, and may present a new challenge to dispensaries.

Brown's draft guidelines reportedly have this to say about dispensaries: "Although medical marijuana 'dispensaries' have been operating in California for years, dispensaries, as such, are not recognized under the law." Individuals who operate dispensary establishments "that do substantially comply with [the] guidelines... may be subject to arrest and prosecution under California law."

For patients who may possess more than the authorized amount, the guidelines also reportedly present a problem. "If a person has what appears to be valid medical marijuana documentation, but exceeds the applicable possession guidelines identified above, all marijuana may be seized. "

On the positive side, patients would reportedly be entitled to the return of their authorized medical marijuana from law enforcement, once their authorization was verified, and state officers would be protected from liability for following this guideline.

For more information, contact NORML Legal Counsel Keith Stroup or California NORML director Dale Gieringer or call 415-563-5858.

Medical Marijuana Employment Rights Bill Passes Both California Houses; Awaits Governor's Signature

Sacramento, CA: A medical marijuana employment rights bill, AB 2279, which would protect hundreds of thousands of medical marijuana patients in California from employment discrimination, passed the State Senate on August 20. The proposal had passed the State Assembly in May, and now heads to the Governor's desk for his signature or veto.

Introduced in February by Assemblyman Mark Leno (D-San Francisco) and co-authored by Assembly members Patty Berg (D-Eureka), Loni Hancock (D-Berkeley) and Lori Saldaña (D-San Diego), this proposal is designed to reverse a January 24th decision of the California Supreme Court in the case of *Ross v. RagingWire*, in which the court held that an employer may fire someone solely because they use medical marijuana outside the workplace.

The bill leaves intact existing state law prohibiting medical marijuana consumption at the workplace or during working hours and protects employers by carving out an exception for safety-sensitive positions.

"AB 2279 is not about being under the influence while at work. That's against the law, and will remain so," said Assemblyman Leno. "It's about allowing patients who are able to work safely and who use their doctor-recommended medication in the privacy of their own home, not to be arbitrarily fired from their jobs. The voters who supported Proposition 215 did not intend for medical marijuana patients to be forced into unemployment in order to benefit from their medicine."

If enacted, California would become the first of the 12 states that currently recognize the medical use of marijuana to protect authorized

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<continued from previous page> medical use patients from being fired based solely on a positive THC test.

California NORML director Dale Gieringer had this to say about the measure. "The legislature was right to approve banning employment discrimination of medical marijuana patients. Marijuana is safer than many prescription drugs that workers are allowed to use, and urine testing has never been FDA tested as either safe or effective in improving workplace safety and productivity."

The governor has not indicated his intentions regarding the measure.

For more information, please contact California NORML director Dale Gieringer or call 415-563-5858

California: Medical Pot Statute Does Not Conflict With Federal Anti-Drug Laws; San Diego Supervisors To Appeal Ruling

San Diego, CA: State provisions condoning the therapeutic use of cannabis do not conflict with federal anti-drug laws, the Fourth District Court of Appeals ruled this week. The 3-0 ruling upheld a 2006 Superior Court decision, which found that an amendment to California's Compassionate Use Act that requires counties to issue identification cards to state-authorized medical cannabis patients "does not create a 'positive conflict' [with federal law.]"

Lawmakers from two southern California counties, San Diego and San Bernardino, filed suit in 2006 against San Diego NORML and the state of California, rather than comply with the state-imposed ID card program - alleging that California's medical marijuana law violated the federal Controlled Substances Act.

Opining for the Court, Justice Alex McDonald determined: "The purpose of the [federal law] is to combat recreational drug use, not to regulate a state's medical practices. ... Because

the [federal] law does not compel the states to cards identifying those against whom California impose criminal penalties for marijuana possession, the requirement that counties issue has opted not to impose criminal penalties does not positive conflict with the US Controlled Substances Act." San Diego NORML was named because they had publicly threatened to sue the county if the county failed to begin issuing the state ID cards to qualified medical users.

Following the ruling, San Diego County Supervisors voted 4 to 1 to appeal the decision to the California Supreme Court.

"This latest appeal is not about politicians seeking clarity in the law; it's about the supervisors opposition to any use of medicinal cannabis," NORML Legal Counsel Keith Stroup said. "The supervisors' arrogant behavior is an affront to their constituents and a gross waste of taxpayers' dollars."

Justices for the Second District Court of Appeals also ruled last week in a separate decision that state law does not require "a patient to periodically renew a doctor's recommendation regarding medical marijuana use."

For more information, please contact Keith Stroup, NORML Legal Counsel, at (202) 483-5500. The case is County of San Diego et al. v. San Diego NORML et al.

Massachusetts: Three Out Of Four Voters Favor Marijuana Decrim Measure

Boston, MA: Nearly three out of four Massachusetts voters support a statewide ballot initiative that seeks to decriminalize the possession and use of small amounts of cannabis by persons age 18 or older, according to a Channel 7 News/Suffolk University poll of 400 registered voters.

Seventy-one percent of respondents said that
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Among respondents over 65 years of age, 70 percent said they backed decriminalization.

The strong poll numbers indicate that the measure "is all but certain" to pass in November, the poll's authors declared in a press release.

If voters approve the measure this fall, Massachusetts would be the first state to enact the decriminalization of marijuana since Nevada's legislature did so in 2001 and the first to do so by voter initiative.

Currently, twelve states have enacted versions of marijuana decriminalization -replacing criminal sanctions with fine-only penalties for minor pot violators.

Michigan voters will also decide on a separate statewide initiative this November that seeks to legalize the medical use of cannabis for qualified patients. If enacted, Michigan will become the thirteenth state since 1996 to authorize the legal use of medical cannabis, and the ninth state to do so by voter initiative.

For more information, please contact NORML Executive Director Allen St. Pierre at (202) 483-5500, or visit the Committee for Sensible Marijuana Policy.

Inhaled Cannabis Halts HIV Pain, Study Says Clinical Trial Results Undermine Feds' 'Flat Earth' Position That Pot Lacks Medical Efficacy

San Diego, CA: Inhaled cannabis significantly reduces HIV-associated

neuropathy compared to placebo, according to clinical trial data published online on the website of the journal Neuropsychopharmacology.

Investigators at the University of California at San Diego, in conjunction with the University of California Center for Medical Cannabis Research, assessed the efficacy of inhaled cannabis in 28 HIV patients with neuropathic (nerve-related) pain not adequately controlled by other pain-relievers. Researchers reported that the proportion of subjects achieving a pain reduction of 30 percent or more was greater for those smoking cannabis than among those smoking the placebo.

"Smoked cannabis ... (1-8% THC) significantly reduced neuropathic pain intensity in HIV-associated DPSN (distal sensory polyneuropathy) compared to placebo, when added to stable concomitant analgesics," authors concluded. "Mood disturbance, physical disability, and quality of life all improved significantly during study treatment. ... Our findings suggest that cannabinoid therapy may be an effective option for pain relief in patients with medically intractable pain due to HIV-associated DSPN."

The study is the third clinical trial conducted by CMCRC investigators to determine that inhaled cannabis significantly reduces chronic neuropathy, a condition that is typically unresponsive to both opioids and non-steroidal anti-inflammatory drugs such as ibuprofen.

Commenting on the study, NORML Deputy Director Paul Armentano said: "It is becoming increasingly apparent why the US government has tried to stonewall

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<continued from previous page> clinical research on the therapeutic effects of inhaled cannabis. Each new trial the Feds approve provides additional evidence undermining the government's 'flat Earth' position that cannabis is without medical value."

For more information, please contact Paul Armentano, NORML Deputy Director. Full text of the study, "Smoked medicinal cannabis for neuropathic pain in HIV: a randomized, crossover clinical trial," will appear in the journal Neuropsychopharmacology.

Congress Fails To Adopt Appropriations Bill; No Opportunity to Vote on Hinchey-Rohrabacher Amendment

Washington, DC: For the first time since 2002, the US House of Representatives has failed to agree on an appropriations bill, thereby resulting in a continuing resolution to continue funding federal agencies at current levels until early in the next Congress, and eliminating the opportunity for the Hinchey-Rohrabacher medical marijuana amendment to be considered in the current Congress.

The amendment is typically considered by Congress as part of the US Justice Department's annual appropriations bill.

Last year the bi-partisan amendment, sponsored by Reps. Maurice Hinchey (D-NY) and Dana Rohrabacher (R-CA), gathered 165 votes - the highest total ever recorded in a Congressional floor vote to liberalize marijuana laws.

For more information, please contact Allen St. Pierre, NORML Executive Director, or Keith Stroup, NORML Legal Counsel, at (202) 483-5500.

Marijuana, Cocaine Have Contrasting Effects On Driving Performance, Study Says

Victoria, British Columbia: Cannabis and cocaine have contrasting effects upon psychomotor performance, according to survey data published in the current issue of the journal *Traffic Injury Prevention*.

Investigators at British Columbia's Center for Addiction Research surveyed the attitudes and driving behaviors of adults in drug treatment that had a history of driving under the influence of cannabis, cocaine, or alcohol. Authors reported that pot's acute effects were more likely to make respondents drive more cautiously or refuse driving altogether.

"When comparing negative physical effects and reckless style of driving with frequency of driving under the influence of cannabis or cocaine, increased negative physical effects from cannabis were inversely related to frequency of driving under the influence of cannabis," investigators concluded. "In terms of driving behavior, cautious or normal driving was commonly reported for cannabis, whereas reckless or reduced driving ability was frequently reported for cocaine."

For more information, please contact Paul Armentano, NORML Deputy Director, at: paul@norml.org. Full text of the study, "Driving behavior under the influence of cannabis or cocaine," appears in Traffic Injury Prevention. Additional information on marijuana use and on-road accident risk appears in the NORML report "Cannabis and Driving: A Scientific and Rational Review," available online at:

http://www.norml.org/index.cfm?Group_ID=7459

World's Largest Annual Pot 'Protestival' Takes Place in Seattle

Seattle, WA: Event organizers are expected and got more than 150,000 attendees at the 17th annual Seattle Hempfest, which takes place the third Saturday and Sunday in August at Myrtle Edwards Park in downtown Seattle.

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News From *your* local affiliate of the National Organization for the Reform of Marijuana Laws

<continued from World's Largest Annual Pot 'Protestival', previous page> More than 70 speakers and 60 bands participated on five stages during the two-day event, which is now recognized as the largest marijuana law reform gathering in the world.

Speakers at this year's event included NORML Executive Director Allen St. Pierre, NORML Founder Keith Stroup, patient advocates Madeline Martinez and Angel Raich, authors Jack Herer and Ed Rosenthal, and PBS travel host and NORML Advisory Board Member Rick Steves.

The theme of this year's weekend festival was: "Industrial Hemp, and What It Can Do for America." A complete schedule of this year's Seattle Hempfest speakers and events is at:

<http://hempfest.org/drupal/>

Join NORML In Berkeley For The 2008 National Conference; Register Today To Take Advantage Of Discounted Rates

Washington, DC: NORML welcomes you to join them in Berkeley, California on Friday, October 17 and Saturday, October 18, for the 2008 national NORML Conference. This year's two-day 'extravaganja,' entitled "It's Not Your Parents' Prohibition," will take place at the Doubletree Hotel & Executive Meeting Center in Berkeley's beautiful marina district.

Plenary sessions at the 37th annual conference include:

o Getting the Story Wrong: How the Media Lie About Cannabis

- o The Legal Marijuana Generation: Growing Up In the Age of Legal Pot
- o The War on Pot Is a War on Young People
- o What If We Arrested 20 Million Americans and Nobody Noticed?

In addition, on Sunday, October 19, NORML's Legal Committee and the faculty of Oaksterdam University will co-sponsor a special, third-day session, entitled "Cannabusiness 102." This unique, one-day seminar will outline step-by-step how to establish

*** NOTE! The Willamette Valley NORML Public meeting * Happens every 4th Sat. of the month and will be at h'ERB'S Toasted Subs, 1210 Willamette St, Eugene call: 541.517-0957 -or- visit: <http://WillametteValleyNORML.org>**



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a legal medical marijuana business in the state of California.

Please mark your calendar now and plan to join them as they focus on the latest marijuana policy developments at the state and federal levels, celebrate our victories over the past year, and hear from the world's leading activists and cannabis law reform organizations. Mingle with celebrities and members of NORML's staff and Board of Directors in one of the most cannabis friendly cities in the world.

Additional details about this year's national conference - including discount room reservations, money saving early-bird registrations, travel details, patient accommodations, vending and sponsorship opportunities, conference scheduling, and a guide to NORML social events - are now available online at NORML's 2008 Conference Registration page, visit -

http://www.norml.org/index.cfm?Group_ID=7626

For more information, please call (202) 483-5500. Answers to frequently asked questions (FAQs), about this year's NORML Conference.

*** THE WILLAMETTE VALLEY (W-V) NORML NEWS REPORT > * P.O. BOX 10957, EUGENE, OREGON, 97440 * PH: (541) 517-0957 * EMAIL: newsroom@willamettevalleynorml.org * OR VISIT: www.WillametteValleyNORML.org**