



The San Diego Chemist

American Chemical Society
Volume 30, Number 5

San Diego Section
May 2018



Better health through
laboratory medicine.

AACC-ACS Joint Meeting

SHORT- AND LONG-TERM CONSEQUENCES OF CANNABIS MEDICALIZATION AND LEGALIZATION

Professor Marilyn A. Huestis

Retired tenured senior investigator and Chief, Chemistry and Drug Metabolism Section, IRP,
National Institute on Drug Abuse, National Institutes of Health

- DATE:** Wednesday, May 30, 2018
- TIME:** 6:00 PM Social Hour, Light Meal
7:00 PM Lecture
- PLACE:** Lilly Biotechnology Center
10290 Campus Point Drive, San Diego, CA 92121
- RSVP:** By Tuesday, May 29, 2018
<https://huestis-cannabis.eventbrite.com>
Attendance is by pre-registration only – no walk-ins please.



About the Speaker

Professor Marilyn A. Huestis recently retired as a tenured senior investigator and Chief, Chemistry and Drug Metabolism Section, IRP, National Institute on Drug Abuse, National Institutes of Health, after 23 years of conducting controlled drug administration studies. Her research program focused on discovering mechanisms of action of cannabinoid agonists and antagonists, effects of *in utero* drug exposure, oral fluid testing, driving under the influence of drugs, and the neurobiology and pharmacokinetics of novel psychoactive substances. Professor Huestis' research also explored new medication targets for cannabis dependence, including oral tetrahydrocannabinol (THC), Sativex, a 1:1 ratio of tetrahydrocannabinol and cannabidiol. She has published 464 peer-reviewed manuscripts and book chapters and more than 500 abstracts were presented at national and international meetings. Professor Huestis received a bachelor's degree in biochemistry from Mount Holyoke College (cum laude), a master's degree in clinical chemistry from the University of New Mexico (with honors), and a doctoral degree in toxicology from the University of Maryland (with honors). Professor Huestis received a doctor honoris causa from the Faculty of Medicine, University of Helsinki in Finland in 2010.

Abstract

The endogenous cannabinoid system in all of our brains is involved in critical survival, cognitive and motor functions. We will explore these functions and how they are altered by cannabinoids present in cannabis. This is a period of great expansion in the use of cannabinoids as therapeutics; however, the number of placebo-controlled, randomized clinical trials documenting the effectiveness of cannabinoids in treating different diseases is low. In addition, there is a growing use of cannabis for non-medical use. The short and long term consequences of this increasing cannabinoid exposure include decreasing perception of risk of using the drug, increasing cannabis dependence and requests for treatment, increased driving under the influence of cannabis, and increased *in utero*, breastfeeding and passive cannabis exposure. Although Δ^9 -tetrahydrocannabinol in blood is measurable in the blood of occasional cannabis users for only hours, it can be measured in the blood of chronic frequent cannabis smokers for as long as 30 days. Markers of recent cannabis intake in blood are similar in both groups of cannabis users and may help distinguish recent use from residual THC excretion in chronic frequent users.

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