

The logo of the University of Kentucky, featuring a stylized 'UK' in white with a blue outline.

Cannabis Center

**Joint Committee on Health,
Welfare and Family Services**

October 26, 2022

BACKGROUND

HB 604 established the Cannabis Center at UK

Provides a \$2 million dollar appropriation; 2 years to spend the money
(July 2022 – June 2024)

Dr. Capilouto appointed Director and Advisory Boards

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

ESTABLISHES RESEARCH PRIORITIES & BUDGET



Peter Akpunonu, MD

Director, UK Medical Toxicology
Director, Kentucky Poison Control Center



Sharon Walsh, PhD

HEALing Communities Project PI
Director – Center on Drug & Alcohol Research, SUPRA



Linda Dwoskin, PhD

Endowed Professor, Pharmaceutical Education
Neuropharmacology, Drug Discovery Expert



Laura Fanucchi, MD

Director, Addiction Consult Service
Co-Investigator on several cannabis studies



William Stoops, PhD

Director, UK Clinical Research Support Office
Substance use expert, long history of controlled trials



Joshua Lile, PhD

Professor, Behavioral Science
Leader in cannabinoid science



Patricia Freeman, RPh, PhD, FAPhA

Endowed Professor in Pharmacy Practice and Science

Director, Center for Advancement of Pharmacy Practice



James Matthews, PhD

Professor, Animal and Food Science

Assistant Dean for Research, College of Ag



Joseph Chappell, PhD

Professor and Chair, Pharmaceutical Sciences in the College of Pharmacy

Natural product scientist, drug development



Danelle Stevens-Watkins, PhD

Professor, Counseling Psychology

Associate Dean for Research



Susanne Arnold, MD

Professor, Medical Oncology

Buck-Kentucky Chair in Lung Cancer Research



Michelle Lofwall, MD

Professor, Bell Alcohol and Addictions Chair

Director, Straus and First Bridge Clinics

ADVISORY COMMITTEE

ADVISING EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE, FEEDBACK
ON CENTER PROGRESS AND DIRECTION

Initial Progress

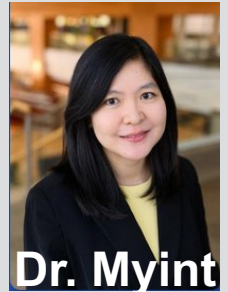
OPIOID USE DISORDER

Received \$2 million NIH R01 grant for an inpatient trial to examine vaporized cannabis for opioid use disorder

CANCER TRIAL

Planning trial with Markey Cancer Center – edible cannabis doses for patients with cancer; quality of life, pain, nausea/appetite, mood, dose safety, sleep outcomes (in collaboration with Dr. Zin Myint)

Start enrollment with UG/prostate cancer patients, then plan to expand to other subtypes



Dr. Myint

Initial Progress

Kentucky Injury Prevention and Research Center (KIPRC)

Examining cannabis involvement in opioid overdose death, injuries, driving fatalities

First data sets – Spring 2023

Driving Study

Completed enrollment for cannabis driving simulator study, compared various doses of inhaled cannabis to alcohol effects

Results – December 2022/January 2023

Kentucky CBD Analysis

Published two papers on the quality issues of CBD products sold in KY and online (label inaccuracies, THC contamination)



Initial Progress

Cannabis Growing License

Planning a pilot growing project with UK CAFE (Drs. Ling Yuan, Jamie Matthews)

Identified a growing area

Multiple areas for rich collaboration

Medical Cannabis Impact on Rx Opioid Use

Exploring collaboration in Pennsylvania to:

- assess rx opioid use in patients enrolled in medical cannabis program
- data from the prescription drug monitoring program
- first study of its kind to assess PDMP data on this topic
- Data expected: June-December 2023



Study Timeline – Cancer Trial

STUDY START-UP

**UK
REQUIREMENTS**

4-month review
February 2023

REGULATORY

2-month review
April 2023

ENROLLMENT

**Laboratory
Study**

4 months
August 2023

Outpatient Trial

8 months
April 2024

DATA FINALIZED

June 2024

Study Planning

Executive Committee is exploring studies examining:

- 1) **Lung inflammation**: examine edible, vaporized, smoked cannabis; inflammation biomarkers
- 2) **Obesity**: many studies have associated cannabis use with lower BMI, but controlled studies are needed; outcomes could include BMI, hA1C, blood glucose, other biomarkers
- 3) **Pain**: Controlled studies are needed on cannabis effects on bodily pain

UK Faculty Grants

Launched cannabis grant program at UK

Focus is on controlled trials and public health impact

Also considering grants on

- basic/preclinical research
- agricultural research
- secondary analysis of large national data sets
- community research

Funding decisions February 2023

Data available May 2024



