

# «The Inaugural Symposium on Cannabis and People Living with HIV: At the Crossroads Between Neuropsychology and Inflammation»

*Please see agenda below for more details*

*Organized by: Dr Cecilia Costiniuk, RI-MUHC  
Dr Mohammad-Ali Jenabian, Université du Québec à Montréal  
Dr Sergio Rueda, U of Toronto/Centre for Addiction and Mental Health*

*DATE: Friday, April 5, 2019*

*PLACE: MUHC Glen site Research Institute, Auditorium, S1.1129*

*TIME: 8:30 – 16:30*

**\*\*\*Reservation required. Places are limited\*\*\***

**Please RSVP to Julie Bellingham: [julie.bellingham@muhc.mcgill.ca](mailto:julie.bellingham@muhc.mcgill.ca) or (514) 934-1934, ext. 32187 by Wednesday, March 18th**

*\*This event is made possible by\**



the CTN  
CIHR Canadian  
HIV Trials Network

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Division of Infectious Diseases



## Session Objectives and Agenda

### **The Inaugural Symposium on Cannabis and People Living with HIV: At the Crossroads Between Neuropsychology and Inflammation**

Date: Friday April 5<sup>th</sup>, 2019; 8:30am-4:30 pm

Location: Research Institute of the McGill University Health Centre, S1-level Auditorium, 1001 boulevard Decarie, Montreal, Quebec H4A 3J1

*Speakers, titles and objectives:*

#### **Ms Shari Margolese, Community Advocate, Former Chair of the CIHR Canadian HIV Trials Network Community Advisory Committee**

Medical cannabis in the era of legalization: A patient's perspective

- 1) Describe the history of medical cannabis access in Canada
- 2) Describe the proposed new access system for medical patients
- 3) Describe pros and cons for patients under the new legislation with respect to:
  - a. cost
  - b. selection and access
  - c. consumption space, driving and other legalities
  - d. research

#### **Dr David Grelotti, MD, Assistant Clinical Professor, Health Sciences, University of California San Diego and Director of Owen Health Clinic, San Diego**

The problems and promise of cannabis use among PLWH

- 1) To review the epidemiology of cannabis use among PLWH
- 2) To evaluate how cannabis use affects key aspects of the HIV continuum of care
- 3) To explore medicinal cannabis use among PLWH

#### **Dr. Thomas Marcotte, PhD, Professor of Psychiatry and Co-Director of the Center for Medicinal Cannabis Research at the University of California, San Diego**

HIV, Cannabis, and the Brain: Impacts on cognition and public safety

- 1) To discuss the effects of HIV infection, and cannabis, on cognitive functioning
- 2) To discuss the impact of HIV and cannabis on driving ability
- 3) To discuss methods for identifying cannabis-impaired drivers

#### **Dr Mahesh Mohan, DVM, MS, PhD, Associate Professor, Division of Comparative Pathology, Tulane National Primate Research Centre, Covington, Louisiana**

Cannabinoid-induced anti-inflammatory effects during Simian Immunodeficiency Virus (SIV) disease

- 1) To review the effects  $\Delta$ -9 tetrahydrocannabinol (THC) administration prior to and during SIV infection of rhesus macaques on intestinal T cell activation/exhaustion, macrophage dynamics and oral microbiome.
- 2) To review the evidence showing that chronic THC administration to SIV-infected macaques induces epigenetic effects (DNA methylation) in the intestinal epithelium, prevents

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collagen deposition in the lymph nodes and modulates proinflammatory microRNA and gene expression in the brain.

### **Dr Jennifer Manuzak, PhD, Research Assistant Professor, Department of Pediatrics, Miller School of Medicine, University of Miami, Batchelor's Children's Research Institute**

#### The effects of cannabis use on inflammation, immunity and microbial dysbiosis in HIV infection

- 1) To discuss the effects of cannabis use on indicators of inflammation and immune activation in PLWH on ART in regards to frequency, phenotype and cytokine-producing capacity of innate and adaptive immune cells
- 2) To review the effects of cannabis use on plasma markers of microbial translocation, gastrointestinal barrier dysfunction and inflammation in PLWH

### **Dr M-J Milloy, PhD, Research Scientist with the British Columbia Centre on Substance Use at the British Columbia Centre for Excellence in HIV/AIDS**

#### Scientific rationale to evaluate the use of cannabis/cannabinoids to reduce the harms of opioid and stimulant dependence in the context of the North American overdose crisis

- 1) Review the pre-clinical evidence to support a beneficial effect of cannabis/cannabinoid exposure on substance use-related disease processes, including chronic pain, anxiety/depression and drug withdrawal;
- 2) Outline recent findings from Vancouver and other settings describing the ad hoc use of cannabis/cannabinoids as a harm reduction strategy by individuals living with substance use disorders at risk of overdose;
- 3) Describe preliminary findings from an observational evaluation of a community-based cannabis for harm reduction intervention in Vancouver and outline a planned experimental trial of cannabis in the context of opioid dependence

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**AGENDA**

- 8:30 to 9:15: Registration/Coffee
- 9:15 to 9:30: **Welcome & opening remarks**  
Dr Cecilia Costiniuk, MD
- 9:30 to 10:15: **Medical Cannabis in the era of legalization: A patient's perspective**  
Ms Shari Margolese
- 10:15 to 11:00 **The problems and promise of cannabis use among PLWH**  
Dr David J. Grelotti, MD
- 11:00 to 11:15 BREAK**
- 11:15 to 12:00 **HIV, Cannabis, and the Brain: Impacts on cognition and public safety**  
Dr Thomas Marcotte, PhD
- 12:00 to 13:00 LUNCH**
- 13:00 to 13:45: **Cannabinoid-induced anti-inflammatory effects during Simian Immunodeficiency Virus (SIV) disease**  
Dr Mahesh Mohan, DVM, MS, PhD
- 13:45 to 14:30: **Heavy cannabis use associated with reduction in activated and inflammatory immune cell frequencies in antiretroviral therapy-treated People Living with HIV**  
Dr Jennifer Manuzak, PhD
- 14:30 to 14:45: BREAK**
- 14:45 to 15:30: **Preliminary findings on the role of cannabis/cannabinoids on HIV disease and reducing the harms of substance use disorders**  
Dr M-J Milloy, PhD
- 15:30 to 16:00: **Panel Discussion: Key research priorities for the next 5 years**  
All speakers
- 16:00 to 16:15: **Closing remarks and symposium adjournment**  
Dr Cecilia Costiniuk