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New Center Advances Medical Cannabis Science, Education

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New Center Advances Medical Cannabis Science, Education

NCCRE to provide leadership and expertise to health care professionals, industry, government officials

JANUARY 20, 2022 BY WHITNEY TARPY



A technician removes a cannabis seedling from a jar of cultivation medium in a School of Pharmacy facility. Photo by Don Stanford/UM School of Pharmacy

OXFORD, Miss. – The **University of Mississippi** is home to a new center that will prioritize resources toward patient and public safety on the medicinal use of cannabis.

The **National Center for Cannabis Research and Education** will foster and conduct scientific research, data analysis, education and training on the health effects of cannabis. NCCRE researchers and leaders will aid in policymaking and outreach as state programs emerge.

Based within the **School of Pharmacy**, the new center's foundation will build on the school's long-standing history of cannabis research.



Larry Walker

"There is no doubt that cannabis can provide treatments for serious diseases, and there is a solid research foundation for further exploration" said Larry Walker, interim director of the NCCRE, who served 16 years as director of the National Center for Natural Products Research. "The potency of the plant, the sophistication of preparation and delivery, the ready availability of these products and the declining perceptions of risks mean that many seeking its health benefits could experience various adverse effects.

"The goal of the NCCRE is that health professionals and patients have the products and information that will allow them to tap the hope for new treatments from cannabis, while understanding and minimizing harmful effects."

The center was approved Thursday (Jan. 20) by the board of trustees of the Mississippi Institutions of Higher Learning.

The center's initiatives emphasize research, advising and education in medical cannabis as well as cannabis-related drug development. Along with working toward the creation of new drugs and formulations, the NCCRE will perform data collection and analysis while engaging in training and education with medical professionals, industry and government officials.

"The creation of this outstanding center draws and builds upon the University of Mississippi's

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Campus Briefs

Students Learn 'Real Politics' in Washington, D.C., Winter Session

OXFORD, Miss. – Eleven University of Mississippi students spent their winter break learning about the people who work behind the scenes of the American government in Washington, D.C. Lead by Jonathan Klingler, assistant professor of political science, the students of Pol 391: Applied Politics met not with candidates, but with the people who make candidates'

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Young Alumna Gives Back to School of Accountancy

OXFORD, Miss. – Stephanie Jennings Teague, of Chicago, sees her commitment of \$100,000 to the Patterson School of Accountancy's new building at the University of Mississippi as a means of saying "thank you." "It is a way to show a small token of my appreciation to Ole Miss, the faculty and staff, and the accounting

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Reuters: Keep an Eye on the Money Supply

U.S. inflation roller coaster prompts fresh look at long-ignored money supply By Michael S. Derby NEW YORK – The amount of money sloshing around the U.S. economy shrank last year for the first time on record, a development that some economists believe bolsters the case for U.S. inflation pressures continuing to abate. The Federal Reserve's

internationally renowned research expertise in cannabis,” said Glenn Boyce, UM chancellor. “With our decades-long scientific leadership in this field, we’re equipped to be a leading resource in this area, and we’re ready to play an invaluable role in ensuring the future of cannabis is safe, productive and effective.”

For more than 50 years, the School of Pharmacy and NCNPR has provided standardized cannabis products for research through the federal government’s National Institute on Drug Abuse Drug Supply Program. Products available include bulk plant material, cigarettes, cannabis extracts and purified cannabinoids.

UM researchers have vast experience in the isolation, identification and synthesis of cannabinoids. Of the 50 new cannabinoids discovered between 2005 and 2015, 43 can be attributed to Ole Miss researchers.

This work has resulted in numerous books and articles published in scientific journals covering topics such as botany and plant biotechnology, isolation of characterization and product development, among others.

Under the NIDA contract, the university also conducts analyses to monitor the potency of illicit cannabis products that have been seized and submitted by the Drug Enforcement Administration and other police agencies. This statistical information is useful to numerous federal agencies in assessing illicit distribution patterns and the potential health impacts of marijuana use.

These decades of experience in both cannabis research and health education have the NCCRE uniquely positioned to advance the science of medical cannabis. It will build on the school’s expertise in cannabis, medication outcomes, drug regulatory science and policy, as well as pharmacy and interprofessional education.

The NCCRE joins the pharmacy school’s four established centers in the Research Institute of Pharmaceutical Sciences: NCNPR, Pii Center for Pharmaceutical Technology, Center for Pharmaceutical Marketing and Management, and Center for Clinical and Translational Science. The addition will allow each of the centers to use its strengths, history and capabilities to conduct medical cannabis research and outreach that will benefit Mississippi and the nation.

For more information on the center and its work, email NCCRE@olemiss.edu.

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Cannabis plants grow in an indoor facility operated by the School of Pharmacy. Photo by Robert Jordan/Ole Miss Digital Imaging Services

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