

June 2016

## POST CONFERENCE REPORT

# The Rapidly Evolving Landscape of Medical Marijuana

Held May 12, 2016



The May 12 multidisciplinary meeting that brought together more than 130 healthcare professionals - including physicians, caregivers and Medical Arts pharmacists - was a success when measured against learning objectives.

Beyond the goal of learning more about “The Rapidly Evolving Landscape of Medical Marijuana” in Canada, the specific objectives as presented by guest lecturer Dean Ducas, M.D. were to understand:

- Health Canada Regulations for Medical Marijuana (MM) access, as well as impending legislation slated for August 2016;
- The current position of **The College of Family Physicians of Canada** including awareness of the “evidence void” for MM, due to the relatively few well-designed clinical trials on which to make evidence based decisions;
- Guidelines and protocol for prescribers who wish to prescribe MM for pain;
- The human body’s endocannabinoid system; and
- Cannabinoid definitions, including herbal, synthetic, Health Canada approved prescription cannabinoids, and endogenously produced cannabinoids

Guest lecturer Craig Rowe, RN built on these objectives by asking his audience to reflect on their professional roles - in the context of patient care - by being better informed, compassionate and nonjudgmental.

The goal of this communiqué is to invite nurse practitioners, nurses and other care-givers to revisit the lectures at the following “private” video link: [https://youtu.be/Ug9CSovB\\_vY](https://youtu.be/Ug9CSovB_vY)

PLEASE NOTE that this link cannot be found by anyone using Internet search terms. In other words, it is set up as a private link to honour Dr. Ducas’s request that the lecture not be viewed by “just anyone” due to potential copyright issues.

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*Pharmacists should play a front-line role in patient management and dispensing of medical marijuana.*

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As a closing note, Medical Arts wishes to state that it supports the position taken by the **Canadian Pharmacists Association (CPhA)** and believes pharmacists should play a front-line role in patient management and dispensing of MM.

## Why?

To begin, Dr. Ducas pointed out that there are contraindications to cannabinoid therapy including:

- Patients under the age of 25;
- Active coronary artery disease;
- Significant respiratory disease;
- Schizophrenia or bi-polar disorder;
- Pregnancy and lactation; as well as caution in prescribing for
- Mood or anxiety disorder;
- History of substance abuse;
- Concomitant use of hypnotics or other psycho-active drugs, or
- Occupational hazards.

As highly accessible, patient-centered, medication management experts who work daily with controlled substances, pharmacists have the experience and expertise to help prevent potential harm.

Newsletters are available at: [medicalartsparmacy.ca](http://medicalartsparmacy.ca)

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