

*CMCR Symposium Exploring paradoxes along the gut-brain axis*  
October 16 - 17, 2025  
San Diego, California

The 2025 CMCR Symposium will highlight the very best translational, clinical, and public health research on cannabis, cannabinoids and the gut-brain axis, exploring paradoxes that have affected trust in the use of cannabinoids as therapeutics. For example, cannabinoids as a potential cause of and treatment for psychosis, or as a treatment for and cause of nausea and vomiting. The symposium will bring clarity to these apparent contradictions and promote an expansion of investigation into these important areas of research through talks by context experts and live discussion and audience Q&A. The CMCR Symposium is a two-day, virtual scientific conference scheduled for October 16 and 17, 2025.

At the completion of the conference, participants should be able to:

- Analyze the biological mechanisms of action of cannabinoids and the endocannabinoid system, and relate them to their potential therapeutic roles in conditions affecting healthy aging.
- Analyze the biological mechanisms of action of cannabinoids and the endocannabinoid system, and relate them to their potential therapeutic roles in the treatment of dementia.
- Evaluate the biological mechanisms by which cannabinoids and the endocannabinoid system function, and assess their potential impact on cancer biology.
- Critically assess research methods and apply tools and strategies to conduct rigorous clinical and translational studies on cannabinoids.
- Assess the use of cannabinoids in clinical populations and analyze their impact on public health and safety.
- Review and discuss research priorities in cannabinoid science.
- Facilitate a comprehensive research training experience for trainees, early-stage investigators, and established researchers interested in cannabis research.
- Analyze the biological mechanisms of action of cannabinoids and the endocannabinoid system, and relate them to their potential therapeutic roles in the treatment of dementia.

### **Program Schedule/Agenda**

#### **Thursday, October 16, 2025**

**8:00-8:10**      **Welcome from the CMCR Director**  
**Igor Grant, MD, FRCP**  
Professor of Psychiatry, UCSD  
CMCR Director

#### **2025 CMCR Symposium Award**

**8:10-9:00**      **2025 CMCR Pioneer in Medicinal Cannabis Research Award**  
**2025 CMCR Award for Advancing Cannabis and Cannabinoids as Therapeutics**  
**Mahmoud A. ElSohly, PhD**  
Research Professor, National Center for Natural Products Research, University of Mississippi  
*Presentation of Award and Keynote Address*

These awards honor a leader in cannabis and cannabinoid research conducting groundbreaking basic and translational research of cannabinoids, other constituents of cannabis, and the endocannabinoid system and whose work has led to significant advances in our knowledge of or an expansion to the therapeutic use of cannabis and cannabinoid-based medicines.

**9:00-10:00**     **Moderated panel discussion and Q&A**  
Moderator:     **Igor Grant, MD**  
Panelists:     Geoffrey Guy [2019]  
                    Daniele Piomelli & Donald Abrams [2022]  
                    Marilyn Huestis & Margaret Haney [2023]  
                    Alexandros Makriyannis [2024]

**10:00-10:05**     **5-minute break**

**CMCR Special Lectures**

**10:05-10:25**     **Guido Frank, MD**  
**gfrank@health.ucsd.edu**  
*Clinical trial of CBD for meal-time anxiety in anorexia nervosa*  
Professor of Psychiatry, UC San Diego

**10:25-10:30**     **Q&A with Dr. Frank**  
Moderator:     David J. Grelotti, MD  
                    Medical Director, CMCR  
                    Scientific and Program Chair, 2025 CMCR Symposium

**10:30-10:50**     **Rudy Ortiz, PhD**  
**rortiz@ucmerced.edu**  
*Metabolic effects of cannabinoids in a rat model of obesity*  
Professor of Molecular and Cell Biology, UC Merced

**10:50-10:55**     **Q&A with Dr. Ortiz**  
Moderator:     David J. Grelotti, MD

**10:55-11:00**     **5-minute break**

**Cannabis, cannabinoids, and psychosis**

**11:00-11:15**     **F. Markus Leweke, MD**  
**markus.leweke@sydney.edu.au**  
*The role of antipsychotics and cannabidiol on the lipidome*  
Brain and Mind Centre, The University of Sydney, Camperdown, New South Wales,  
Australia

**11:15-11:30**     **Deepak D'Souza**  
**deepak.dsouza@yale.edu**  
*Association between cannabis and schizophrenia*  
Professor of Psychiatry, Yale University

**11:30-11:45**     **Sagnik Bhattacharyya, MD, PhD**  
**sagnik.2.bhattacharyya@kcl.ac.uk**  
*Neuroimaging studies of cannabinoid exposure and psychosis*  
Professor of Translational Neuroscience and Psychiatry, King's College London,  
London, UK

**11:45-11:55**     **Moderated panel discussion with the speakers and Q&A**  
**Kristin Cadenhead, MD (Moderator)**  
Professor of Psychiatry, University of California San Diego

**11:55-12:00**     **Introduction to the poster session**  
**Igor Grant, MD, FCRP**  
**David Grelotti, MD**

**12:00-1:00**     **2025 Poster Session**

**Day 2: Friday, October 17, 2025**

**Translational studies of the gut-brain axis**

- 8:00-8:15**      **Marieka DeVuono, PhD**  
**marieka.devuono@uwo.ca**  
*Rat models of cannabis hyperemesis syndrome*  
Department of Anatomy and Cell Biology, Schulich School of Medicine & Dentistry,  
Western University, London, Ontario, Canada
- 8:15-8:30**      **Mahesh Mohan, DVM, MS, PhD**  
**mmohan@txbiomed.org**  
*Cannabinoids and microbiota-gut-brain axis and neuroinflammation in SIV/HIV*  
Southwest National Primate Research Center, Texas Biomedical Research Institute,  
San Antonio, Texas, USA
- 8:30-8:45**      **Nicholas DiPatrizio, PhD**  
**nicholas.dipatrizio@ucr.edu**  
*Gut endocannabinoid system and satiety*  
UC Riverside
- 8:45-8:55**      **Moderated panel discussion with the speakers and Q&A**  
**David Sela, PhD (Moderator)**  
Associate Professor of Food Science, University of Massachusetts Amherst
- 8:55-9:00**      **5-minute break**

**Clinical studies of the gut-brain axis**

- 9:00-9:15**      **Michael Camilleri, MD**  
**camilleri.michael@mayo.edu**  
*Clinical trial of CBD for gastroparesis*  
Clinical Enteric Neuroscience and Translational and Epidemiological Research  
(CENTER), Division of Gastroenterology and Hepatology, Mayo Clinic, Rochester,  
Minnesota
- 9:15-9:30**      **Rachel Wightman, MD**  
**Rachel\_wightman@brown.edu**  
*Cannabis hyperemesis syndrome*  
Associate Professor of Emergency Medicine and Epidemiology at Alpert Medical  
School of Brown University
- 9:30-9:45**      **Jeffry Florian, PhD**  
**Pablo Salcedo, MD**  
*CBD's effects on the liver and endocrine hormones*  
Division of Applied Regulatory Science, Office of Clinical Pharmacology, Office of  
Translational Sciences, Center for Drug Evaluation and Research, FDA
- 9:45-9:55**      **Moderated panel discussion with the speakers and Q&A**  
**Ron Ellis, MD, PhD (Moderator)**  
Professor of Neurology, University of California San Diego
- 9:55-10:00**      **5-minute break**

## Voice from the community

### **10:00-10:55 Moderated panel discussion and Q&A**

Moderator: **Tom Marcotte, PhD**  
Co-Director, CMCR

Panelists: **Sherry Yafai, MD**  
Co-Founder, The Releaf Institute

**Dustin Sulak, DO**  
Co-Founder, Healer.com

**Michelle Sexton, ND**  
Assistant Professor of Anesthesiology  
Center for Integrative Health, UC San Diego

*Anecdotal reports of the benefits of cannabis was the basis for medical marijuana use laws and the formation of the CMCR. Here we will hear the latest observations of cannabinoids and their use.*

### **10:55-11:00 5-minute break**

## Federal Panel

### **11:00-11:55 Moderated panel discussion and Q&A**

Moderator: **Steve Gust, PhD**  
Chair, CMCR National Advisory Committee

Panelists: **David Shurtleff, PhD**  
Deputy Director, National Center for Complementary and  
Integrative Health  
National Institutes of Health

**Susan Weiss, PhD**  
Director, Division of Extramural Research  
National Institute on Drug Abuse

**Cassandra Taylor, PhD**  
Public Health Advisor  
US Food & Drug Administration

*The invited slate of stakeholders will discuss future directions in funding for medicinal cannabis research and new directions in aging and cancer care.*

### **11:55-12:00: Closing Remarks from the CMCR Director Igor Grant, MD**

**Course Director**

David Grelotti, MD  
Associate Professor  
University of California San Diego  
San Diego, CA

**Faculty/Presenter List**

Donald Abrams, MD  
Professor of Clinical Medicine  
UCSF  
San Francisco, CA

J H Atkinson, MD  
Professor-in-Residence Emeritus  
UCSD  
San Diego, CA

Sagnik Bhattacharyya, MD, PhD

Kristin Cadenhead, MD  
Professor  
UC San Diego  
La Jolla, CA

Michael Camilleri, MD, Professor  
Professor  
Mayo Clinic  
Rochester, MN

Deepak D'Souza, MD  
Professor of Psychiatry  
Yale University School of Medicine

Marieka DeVuono, PhD  
Western University  
Woodstock, Cambodia

Nicholas DiPatrizio, PhD

Ronald J Ellis, MD, PhD  
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UCSD  
San Diego, CA

Guido KW Frank, MD  
Professor of Psychiatry  
UCSD  
San Diego, CA

Igor Grant, MD  
UC San Diego  
La Jolla, CA

Igor Grant, MD

UC San Diego  
La Jolla, CA

Geoffrey W Guy, MBBS  
Professor  
The Guy Foundation  
Chedington, United Kingdom

Margaret Haney, PhD  
Professor of Neurobiology (in Psychiatry)  
Columbia University  
New York, NY

Marilyn A Huestis, PhD, Professor  
Thomas Jefferson University  
Fredericksburg, VA

Alexandros Makriyannis, PhD  
Professor  
Northeastern University  
Boston, MA

Thomas Marcotte, PhD  
Professor  
University of California San Diego  
San Diego, CA

Mahesh Mohan, DVM PhD, Professor  
Professor  
Texas Biomedical Research Institute  
San Antonio, TX

Rudy Ortiz, PhD

Daniele Piomelli, PhD

Rachel S Wightman, MD  
Director of Toxicology and Addiction  
Medicine  
Alpert Medical School of Brown University  
Providence, RI

Sherry Yafai, MD  
Medical Director  
The Releaf Institute  
Los Angeles, CA

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Michael Camilleri	Faculty	Stocks or stock options, excluding diversified mutual funds-Dignify Therapeutics Stocks or stock options, excluding diversified mutual funds-Phenomix Grant or research support-Biocodex Grant or research support-Pfizer (Any division) Consulting Fee-Alfasigma Consulting Fee-Amylyx Pharmaceuticals Consulting Fee-BioKier Grant or research support-Brightseed Bio Consulting Fee-Coloplast Consulting Fee-Cumberland Pharma Consulting Fee-Kallyope Consulting Fee-Medpace Consulting Fee-Montereseach S.r.L. Consulting Fee-McDermott Will & Emery LLP for Vanda Pharmaceuticals Consulting Fee-Lilly (Any division) Consulting Fee-Aclipse Consulting Fee-Mirum Pharmaceuticals Consulting Fee-Johnson & Johnson
Deepak D'Souza	Faculty	Advisor-Jazz Pharmaceuticals, Inc. Consulting Fee-BioHaven
Margaret Haney	Faculty	Stocks or stock options, excluding diversified mutual funds-Pleo Pharma
Daniele Piomelli	Faculty	Employment-Exxel Pharma Consulting Fee-Gencor Pacific

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