Art, Pain, & Cannabinoids: Results from Research

Four hours
Presenters: Bill Griesar, Ph.D., Jeff Leake, M.F.A., Ram Kandasamy

How do cannabinoids, chemicals found in marijuana, act in the brain, and what are the effects on behavior? How have artists, approached (and sometimes used) these drugs to develop works that compel, move, influence, inspire, or incite..? What does current research suggest about the potential therapeutic benefits of cannabinoids?

Learning Objectives

• Participants will understand the complexity, and variability of drug content in sources of marijuana.
• Participants will have a clear grasp of where cannabinoids act in the brain, and how drug action might relate to various therapeutic effects, including pain reduction.
• Participants will gain an understanding of the long history of cultivation, artistic inspiration, and use, including medical use, of marijuana.

SYLLABUS/TIME OUTLINE

PART ONE: Bill Griesar, Ph.D.
Instructor and Outreach Coordinator, Neuroscience, WSU Vancouver
Instructor, Psychology, Portland State University
Affiliate Graduate Faculty, Behavioral Neuroscience, Oregon Health & Science University
Neuroscience Coordinator, nwnoggin.org

Introduction to marijuana/cannabis, drug actions and effects of cannabinoids, research methods involved in the study of cannabinoid receptors, and behavioral effects...
Welcome and introductions!

(10 minutes)

Marijuana prevalence, attitudes, brief history, Schedule 1 status, psychopharmacology, phytocannabinoid drug actions and effects, methods of administration, endocannabinoids and receptor targets (CB1 and CB2), role in anxiety, pain, appetite stimulation, nausea relief, multiple sclerosis, epilepsy, memory impairment, and additional cognitive effects, risks to adolescent brain development, summary of latest reports from NIH summit on marijuana (2016)

(50 minutes)

Questions and break

(30 minutes)

REFERENCES FOR PART ONE:

Substance Abuse and Mental Health Administration, National Survey on Drug Use & Health, Health & Human Services

Cannabis, a complex plant: different compounds and different effects on individuals, Zerrin Atakan, Ther Adv Psychopharmacol. 2012 Dec; 2(6): 241–254

Cannabinoid receptor localization in brain, M Herkenham, A B Lynn, M D Little, M R Johnson, L S Melvin, B R de Costa, and K C Rice, Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences, vol. 87 no. 5: 1932–1936


**PART TWO:** Jeff Leake, M.F.A.
Instructor and Outreach Coordinator, Neuroscience, WSU Vancouver Arts Coordinator, nwnoggin.org

Visual culture and social attitudes towards marijuana use from antiquity to modernity. How has visual culture influenced the choices of policy makers, patients, the public and clinical practitioners, and the availability of marijuana for treatment and research?

The history of marijuana use, laws, and policies that have impacted the psychology of pain, user perceptions, and scientific inquiry into the mental health effects of cannabinoids.

* (40 minutes)*

Visualizing the effects of marijuana with a brain map; clarifying the links between structure and behavioral consequences of cannabinoids, and the psychology of pain (and additional therapeutic and side effects - including effects on memory, and learning)

* (20 minutes)*

**REFERENCES FOR PART TWO:**


Zaidel, Dahlia W., Creativity, brain, and art: biological and neurological considerations; Front Hum Neurosci. 2014; 8: 389


**PART THREE:** Ram Kandasamy
Ph.D. graduate student, Neuroscience, WSU Vancouver
New evidence from the lab for cannabinoids and pain reduction, and additional therapeutic effects of cannabis

Definition of pain, the protective and damaging effects of pain, worldwide prevalence of chronic pain, the neural pathway of pain transmission, cannabinoids and opioid prescriptions, arguments against the use of marijuana, overview of cannabinoids, clinical pharmacology of marijuana, mechanisms of cannabinoid analgesia, cannabinoid-based therapies, cannabinoid efficacy for pain conditions, cannabinoids and migraine, sex differences in cannabinoid analgesia, cannabinoids vs. opioids (50 minutes)

Questions and brain viewing! Assistance from Cole Dawson, Neuroscience undergraduate, WSU Vancouver, who currently studies opioid dependence and withdrawal in Mike Morgan’s lab. (30 minutes)

Assessment (10 minutes)

REFERENCES FOR PART THREE:


*FUNDING SOURCES:* State of Washington Initiative Measure No. 171; State of Washington Initiative Measure No. 502; NIH/NIDA DA027625; NIH/NINDS NS095097