Painweek. **CERTIFICATION SERIES** GALERBELEORDS

Cannabis & Cannabinoid Pharmacology

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Faculty Disclosure

- Consulting Fee: HealthXL, Speranza
- Other: Expert Witness—Cardinal Health

This presentation was not a part of the presenter's official duties at the WVU and does not represent the opinion of WVU



Learning Objectives

- Distinguish between cannabis, cannabis sativa, cannabis indica, hemp, marijuana, and cannabinoids with particular attention to cannabidiol (CBD) and delta-9-tetrahydrocannabinol (THC).
- Recall the physiological effects of the human endocannabinoid system stemming from CB1 and CB2 receptors, PPARs, TRPVs, GCPRs, fatty acid binding proteins, biosynthesis enzymes, and degradation enzymes, all in relation to the physiological effects.
- Recall the respective pharmacology of cannabinoids including endocannabinoids, phytocannabinoids, and synthetic cannabinoids.



"Multiple Cannabis Personality Disorder"

Painwe



*Not real. Conceptual.

Cannabis Plants

Painwee



www.amaweed.com/en/blog/what-s-the-real-difference-between-hemp-and-weed/.

Cannabis Plants



www.amaweed.com/en/blog/what-s-the-real-difference-between-hemp-and-weed/.



Industrial Hemp



nationalhempassociation.org/getting-started-in-the-industrial-hemp-industry-one-perspective.

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Cotton versus Cannabis

An Alternative American HIGHstory

	Cotton	Cannabis	
Land for Growing	2x	1x	
Water for Growing 1 kg	10 liters	2 liters	
Pesticide Utilization	Pollution due to pesticides/herbicides (25% of all world	N/A	
	pesticide use)		Industrial Hemp
Crop Rotation	N/A	Can grow for 14 years on same land, or be rotated	< 0.3% THC No regulation on CBD %
Environmental Effects	N/A	Returns up to 60% of nutrients to soil when dried in the field	

me.me/i/cotton-vs-hemp-o-cotton-needs-twice-as-much-hemp-7985639.



The Cannabis Plant

- THC cultivation
 - Low grade: male and female plants
 - Medium grade: fertilized females
 - High grade: isolated females
- Sinsemilla: "without seeds"

Elsohly. *Life Sci*. 2005;78(5):539-548. D'Souza. *JAMA*. 2015;313(24):2431-2432. doi:10.1001/jama.2015.6407.





Marijuana Flower Testing and Sales

Transfer Flows of Flower Equivalent, 2019



Then again, are FDA-approved products tested at a greater frequency?



www.colorado.gov/pacific/sites/default/files/2019%20Regulated%20Marijuana%20Market%20Up date%20Report%20Final.pdf.

Terpenes



Wines



Natural Rubber



CARENE (Cedar, Rosemary)

(Hops)







CARYONPHYLLENE (Peppercorns)

LIMONENE (Citrus Lemon)







NEROL

HUMULENE GERANIOL (Roses, Wine Grapes)





LINALOOL (Mints, Lavender)



www.blockheadbrands.com/articles/2017/10/14/medicin al-properties-of-terpenes-terpenoids.





Terpenes & Terpenoids

- Terpenes are aromatic compounds responsible for the odor of flowers, fruits, seeds, leaves, woods, & roots
 - Particularly Confers
 - Plants develop terpenes to attract pollinators and reject predators
 - 30,000 natural products with the formula (C5H8)n
- Terpenoids are terpenes modified with functional groups (typically oxygen-containing)
 - 25,000 exist



Terpenes & Terpenoids

- The terms terpenes and terpenoids are often used interchangeably
- Factors that affect cannabis terpene levels include:
 - Climate, soil type, harvest time, and maturation level
- Research suggests that these compounds can have medicinal properties

www.sciencedirect.com/topics/chemistry/terpene.



Terpenes

- Terpenes are grouped together because of their distinctive carbon skeleton of isoprene (2-methyl-1,3butadiene)
- Monoterpene is alpha-pinene, a major component of turpentine
- About 50 monoterpenic compounds have been isolated from wines



www.sciencedirect.com/topics/chemistry/terpene.

Terpene	Isoprene Units	Formula
Hemiterpene	1	C_5H_8
Monoterpene	2	$C_{10}H_{16}$
Sesquiterpene	3	$C_{15}H_{24}$
Diterpene	4	$C_{20}H_{32}$
Triterpene	6	$C_{30}H_{48}$
Sesquarterpene	7	$C_{35}H_{56}$
Tetraterpene	8	$C_{40}H_{64}$
Polyterpene	Many	N/A

Terpene Extraction





Essential Oils

www.intechopen.com/books/essential-oils-bioactive-compounds-new-perspectivesand-applications/terpenoids-as-important-bioactive-constituents-of-essential-oils.





www.mybpg.com/blog/cannabis-terpenes/.



www.leafly.com/news/cannabis-101/terpenes-the-flavors-of-cannabis-aromatherapy.





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www.mybpg.com/blog/cannabis-terpenes/.



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www.mybpg.com/blog/cannabis-terpenes/.

Humulene

(HYOO-myu-leen)

Also

Hops

Wood

with

GSC

found in

Other strains

humulene

Sherbert





www.mybpg.com/blog/cannabis-terpenes/.



"The Entourage Effect"

- Cannabis terpenes are said to optimize the effects of cannabis cannabinoids, known as the "Entourage Effect"
- Terpene(s)-to-cannabinoid(s) ratio
 - May affect respective pharmacological outcomes

THE ENTOURAGE EFFECT



www.sciencedirect.com/topics/chemistry/terpene. www.mybpg.com/blog/cannabis-terpenes/.





Cannabinoids



Cannabinoids

Endo-Cannabinoids

Phyto-Cannabinoids

Synthetic Cannabinoids



Cannabinoids

Endo-Cannabinoids

Phyto-Cannabinoids

Synthetic Cannabinoids



Endocannabinoid System (ECS)



summitreleaf.com/2020/05/04/the-endocannabinoid-system/.

painwe

ECS Endocrinology & Metabolism





biologydictionary.net/endocannabinoid-system/. Mazier. *Trends Endocrinol Metab.* 2015;26(10):524-537. Trends in Endocrinology & Metabolism

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Endocannabinoid Receptors

THE ENDOCANNABINOID SYSTEM

HUMAN CANNABINOID RECEPTORS

CB1 Receptors are concentrated in the brain & the central nervous system but are also present in some nerves and organs.

CB2 Receptors are mostly in peripheral organs, especially cells associated with the immune system.

TRVP1

Receptors are concentrated in the blood, bone, marrow, tongue, kidney, liver, stomach & overies.

TRPV2

& lungs.

Receptors are concentrated in the skin, muscle, kidney, stomach



GPR 18 Receptors can be found primarily in bone marrow, the spleen and lymph nodes, and to a lesser extend the testes

GPR55 Receptors are found in the bones, the brain, particularly the cerebellum, and the Jejunum and lleum.

GPR 119 Receptors are found predominantly in the Pancreas and the intestinal tract, in small amounts



mcanz.org.nz/the-endocannabinoid-system/. Cani. *Diabetes Metab*. 2014;40:246-257.



Cannabinoid Receptors

CB1/CB2

CB1 receptors

- Primarily in CNS
- Also connective tissue, gonads, glands, and organs
- Analgesia, euphoria, and anticonvulsive

CB2 receptors

- Primarily in immune system and GI tract
- Inflammation and digestion





Cannabinoid Receptors CB1/CB2



Cardiovascular System

Decreased Heart Rate Decreased Blood Pressure Decreased Myocardial Contractility Increased Coronary Dilation

Skin

Increased Antioxidant Enzymes Decreased Lipid Peroxidation Decreased Keratinocyte Proliferation

Liver/Adipose Tissue/Skeletal Muscle

Increased Lipogenesis Increased insulin and leptin resistance Decreased Apdiponectin Decreased HDL Cholesterol Decreased Glucose Tolerance

Gastrointestinal Tract

Decreased LES Relaxation Decreased Gastric Acid Secretion Decreased Gastric Motility Decreased Visceral Pain

Leukocytes and Immune Cells

Decreased Activity of Mast Cells Increased/Decreased Activity of Macrophages, Neutrophils Decreased Th1 cytokines (IL-2, IFN, TNFα) Increased Th2 cytokines (IL-5, IL-10)

Robert. Circulation. 2020;142(10):e131-e152.



CB1 Receptor Processes

- Surface CB1s inhibit cyclic adenosine monophosphate (cAMP) formation and calcium influx
- Intracellular CB1s mediate signal pathways through β-arrestin
 - Lysosome CB1s: increase intracellular calcium
 - Mitochondrial CB1s: decrease cellular metabolism
 - By inhibiting cellular respiration and cAMP production



Zou. Int J Mol Sci. 2018;19(3):833.



ECS Pre/Post Synaptics & Astrocytes



2-AG: 2-Arachidonolglycerol

DAG: Diacylglycerol

- DAGL: Diacylglycerol Lipase-Alpha
- AEA: Anandamide
- NAPE: N-Acyl-Phosphatidylethanolamine
- NAPE-PLD: NAPE-Specific Phospholipase D
- NAT: N-acyltransferase
- GPCR: G-Protein-Coupled Receptor
- AA: Arachidonic Acid
- NMDA: N-Methyl-D-Aspartate
- VGCC: Voltage-Gated Calcium Channels
- MAGL: Monoacylglycerol Lipase
- TRPV1: Transient Receptor Potential Subfamily V Member 1
- FAAH: Fatty Acid Amide Hydrolase

Zou. Int J Mol Sci. 2018;19(3):833. De Fonseca. Alcohol Alcohol. 2005;40(1):2-14.



ECS Pre/Post Synaptics & Astrocytes



Zou. *Int J Mol Sci*. 2018;19(3):833. De Fonseca. *Alcohol Alcohol*. 2005;40(1):2-14.

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Postsynaptic

- 2-AG is biosynthesized from DAG by DAGL-alpha
- AEA is synthesized from NAPE by NAPE-PLD activated by GPCR depolarization
 - NAPE biosynthesis catalyzed by NAT, which is activated by Ca and cAMP
- AEA activates TRPV1
- AEA regulates dopamine release via K channels and protein kinases
 - Protein kinase A and MAPK
- AEA is degraded to AA and ethanolamine (EtNH₂) by FAAH

Presynaptic

- 2-AG and AEA (lipids) cross presynaptic membranes to active CB1, which regulate GABA and glutamate release via VCGG and NMDA receptors
- 2-AG is degraded to AA and glycerol by MAGL

Astrocytes

2-AG activates CB1 on astrocytes, which releases glutamate

Pre/Post Synaptics, Astrocytes, & Microglia



Yin. Acta Pharmacol Sin. 2019;40:336-341.



Biosynthesizing & Degradation Enzymes





- DAG \rightarrow 2-AG (via DAGL-alpha)
 - 2-AG is degraded to AA and glycerol by MAGL
- NAPE \rightarrow AEA (via NAPE-PLD)
 - AEA is degraded to AA and ethanolamine (EtNH₂) by FAAH

biologydictionary.net/endocannabinoid-system/. Ramer. Front Pharmacol. 09 May 2019.

Arachidonic Acid

An Omega-3 Fatty Acid



www.painresearchforum.org/news/51110-peripheral-gaba-relieves-trpv1-sensitization-thermal-hypersensitivity. Ramer. *Front Pharmacol*. 09 May 2019.



Arachidonic Acid Cascade



Major Side Effects of NSAIDs & COX-2 Selective Inhibitors. March 2017. tmedweb.tulane.edu/pharmwiki/doku.php/nsaid_side_effects.


PPARs

Peroxisome Proliferator-Activated Receptors

- Alpha
 - PPARα influences fatty acid metabolism and lowers lipid levels (increases HDL)
 - Fibrates are PPARα activators
- Gamma
 - PPAR γ is involved in adipogenesis, energy balance, and lipid biosynthesis

 $PPAR-\alpha/\gamma$ dual agonists are being studied

 \blacktriangleright Hypolipemic, hypotensive, anti-atherogenic, and anti-inflammatory

- Increase glucose uptake and glycogen synthesis
- PPARγ plays a crucial role in the functioning of the nervous system
- Thiazolidinediones are PPARγ agonists
- Beta and delta
 - Participate in fatty acid oxidation
 - Regulate glucose and cholesterol
 - Studied as prevention of obesity with a high-fat diet



TRPVS Transient Receptor Potential Subfamily V Member 1

- Transient receptor potential (TRP) family
- Activated by AEA and CBD
- Main function: detect and regulate heat
- Acts as an integrator of inflammatory signal
- Medication with TRPV MoA: capsaicin



www.painresearchforum.org/news/51110-peripheral-gaba-relieves-trpv1-sensitization-thermal-hypersensitivity. Ramer. *Front Pharmacol*. 09 May 2019.





GPRs & GCPRs



www.painresearchforum.org/news/51110-peripheral-gaba-relieves-trpv1-sensitization-thermal-hypersensitivity. Ramer. *Front Pharmacol*. 09 May 2019.

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FABPS Fatty Acid Binding Proteins

- Transport AEA and 2-AG to PPAR
- Transport 2-AG to MAGL (for breakdown)
- Transport AEA to FAAH (for breakdown)
- FABP inhibitors attenuate AEA degradation by FAAH



www.painresearchforum.org/news/51110-peripheral-gaba-relieves-trpv1-sensitization-thermal-hypersensitivity. Ramer. *Front Pharmacol*. 09 May 2019.



ABCannabinoids



Ahmed. Gastroenterol Hepatol (N Y). 2016;12(11):668-679.



GABBA, GABBA, GABBA





basicmedicalkey.com/sedative-hypnotic-and-anxiolytic-drugs-2/. *Mayo Clinic Proceedings* 2019;94:1840-1851.



Endocannabinoids



Lu. Biol Psychiatry. 2016;79(7):516-525.



Anandamide (AEA)

- Endocannabinoid
- Origin
 - Ananda (Sanskrit for "bliss, joy, delight")
 - Amide (nitrogen)
- Fatty acid amide hydrolase (FAAH) enzyme
 - Metabolizes anandamide into ethanolamine and arachidonic acid
 - FAAH inhibitors are in clinical development
- 1992: First described and named by Raphael Mechoulam





Mayo Clinic Proceedings. 2019;94:1840-1851.

2-Arachidonylglyerol (2-AG)

- CB1 and CB2 agonist
- Ester formed from the omega-6 fatty acid arachidonic acid and di-acyl-glycerol
- Brain 2-AG levels are ~170 times higher than those of anandamide (AEA)
- Synthesized on-demand acting as a retrograde messenger inhibiting neurotransmitter release at both inhibitory and excitatory synapses (mediating plasticity)



Baggelaar. Prog Lipid Res. 2018;71:1-17.



N-Arachidonoylaminophenol (AM-404)

- An active metabolite of acetaminophen
- Mechanisms of action



- Endogenous cannabinoid reuptake inhibitor (ECRI)
 - Think SSRI MoA, but cannabinoid instead of serotonin
- TRPV-1 agonist
- COX-1 and COX-2 inhibitor

Mayo Clinic Proceedings. 2019;94:1840-1851.



Cannabinoids

Endo-Cannabinoids

Phyto-Cannabinoids

Synthetic Cannabinoids



Cannabinoid Natural Sources



Echinacea

Trends Plant Sci. 2020 25985-1004. Gertsch. *Br J Pharmacol.* 2010;160:523-529.



A Pot Full of Cannabinoids...





Cannabis Biosynthesis & Conversion of Cannabinoids



- CBGA: Cannabigerolic acid
- CBG: Cannabigerol
- CBDA: Cannabidiolic acid
- CBD: Cannabidiol
- THCA: Tetrahydrocannabinolic acid
- THC: Tetrahydrocannabinol
- CBN: Cannabinol
- CBDV: Cannabidivarin

www.researchgate.net/figure/Major-cannabinoids-present-in-Cannabis-sativa-L-Biosynthesis-and-conversion-pathways_fig1_332566538.



A Pot Full Of Cannabinoids



www.inmedpharma.com/media-news/cannabinol-101-the-science-of-cannabinol-cbn/.



Phytocannabinoids

100+ (Highlighting Big 4)

- CBG (Cannabigerol)
- CBN (Cannabinol)
- THC (Tetrahydrocannabinol)
- CBD (Cannabidiol)





Horn. *Pharmacy Times*. Dec 2014. www.royalqueenseeds.com/blog-cannabinol-cbn-what-is-it-and-what-are-its-effects-n474.



Cannabigerol (CBG)

- "Mother of All Cannabinoids"
 - Plant produces 1st, then converted to other cannabinoids
- Constitutes <1% of cannabinoids in plant
- Mechanisms of action
 - Partial CB1 and CB2 agonist
 - Preferential CB2
 - Alpha-2 agonist
 - 5HT_{1A2} antagonist
 - TRPV1 agonist
 - Suggested to be a PPAR-gamma agonist



cannigma.com/plant/what-is-cbg/.



Cannabinol (CBN)

- 1st isolated natural cannabinoid (1896)
- Product of the degradation of THC
 - Heat and light
 - Not a THC metabolite
 - Not derived from CBG
- Mechanisms of action
 - CB1 and CB2 partial agonist
 - CB2 > CB1 receptor affinity







Cannabidiol (CBD)

- Discovered in 1940
- 40% of plant cannabinoid extract
- Mechanisms of action
 - Indirect CB1 antagonist
 - GPR18 partial agonist and GPR55 antagonist
 - PPARγ agonist
 - 5HT_{1A} agonist
 - Mu and delta opioid modulator
- May reduce THC Clearance
- Bioavailability: oral (6%) and inhalation (11% to 45%)
- t ½: 18 to 32 hours
- CBD derived from hemp (with 0.3% THC or lower) is legal to sell as a cosmetics ingredient, but cannot be sold under federal law in food or dietary supplements

Horn. *Pharmacy Times*. Dec 2014. Kathmann. *Naunyn Schmied Arch Pharmacol.* 2006;372:354-361.





Tetrahydrocannabinol (THC)

- Δ9–tetrahydrocannabinol
 - $\Delta 8$ -tetrahydrocannabinol also exists
- · Mechanism of action
 - CB1 partial agonist
- Inhalation
 - Immediate absorption
 - Peak 15 to 30 minutes
 - Taper off in 2 to 3 hours
- Oral ingestion
 - Effects delayed (30 minutes to 1 hour)
 - Peak 2 to 3 hours
 - Taper off in ~12 hours
- Highly lipophilic
 - Distributing rapidly to highly perfused tissues, and later to fat tissue

Horn. *Pharmacy Times*. Dec 2014. Bridgeman. *P T*. 2017;42(3):180-188.







Cannabinoid Receptor Affinity CBG, CBN, THC, and CBD

Green: Agonist Purple: Partial Agonist Red: Antagonist

Phytocannabinoid	CB1	CB2
CBG		
CBN	+	-
THC		
CBD		

www.inverse.com/mind-body/thc-cbd-the-science-of-cannabinoids-and-the-brain Navarro. *Front Pharmacol.* 2018;9:632.



Cannabinoids

Endo-Cannabinoids

Phyto-Cannabinoids

Synthetic Cannabinoids



Synthetic Cannabinoids CBD Derivatives

See "Medical" & Recreational Marijuana Course

- Hydrogenated
- Dimethylheptyl (DMH)
- C4'-alkyl chain modifications
- Halogenated (CI, Br, FI, & I)
- Hydroxyl
- Diacetylated
- Quinones

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Synthetic Cannabinoids THC Derivatives

See "Medical" & Recreational Marijuana Course

- 1st generation
 - Sterling-Winthrop Aminoalkylindoles (WIN-X)
 - John Williams Huffman (JWH-X)
 - Hebrew University (HU-X)
 - Charles Pfizer (CP-X)
- 2nd generation
 - Alkyl derivatives
 - N-methylpiperidines
 - Benzoindoles
- 3rd generation
 - Indoles

Pain\/

Indazoles



Synthetic Cannabinoids

Cannabidiol (Epidiolex)

- FDA approvals (>/= 2yo)
 - Dravet syndrome
 - Tuberous sclerosis
 - Lennox-Gastaut syndrome (LGS)



Clinical Pharmacology Online Database.



Synthetic Cannabinoids

Tetrahydrocannabinol Products

- Dronabinol (Marinol[®]) capsules
- Syndros[®]: liquid, C3
- FDA approvals
 - Chemo-induced N/V
 - Aids-anorexia •

MARINOI" (III. Idronabino Capsules 2.5 mg, 5 mg, 10 mg NDC 20482-335-SYNDROS (dronabino) C-11 UNIMED oral solution 5 mg/ml For Oral RL insys 0.11 0.2 0.5 0.6 0.6 0.6 2.5 mg 10 mg 5 mg

UNIMED

Marinol® (dronabinol

- Off-label
 - Cancer-anorexia
 - Intractable pruritus secondary to cholestatic liver disease

Clinical Pharmacology Online Database.



Synthetic Cannabinoids

CBD and THC (Nabiximols)

Approvals and trials

- Approved for MS spasticity in >2 dozen countries (Canada, Mexico, Europe, etc)
- Approved for MS neuropathic pain and cancer pain in Canada
- US Phase 3 clinical trials (MS spasticity and neuropathic pain)

<u>Dosage</u>

- Each 100-microliter spray contains:
 - 2.7 mg delta-9-tetrahydrocannabinol (THC)
 - 2.5 mg cannabidiol (CBD)
- Dose titration (sprays)
 - Starting with 1/day up to 12/day



www.practicalpainmanagement.com/treatments/pharmacological/analgesics-future-potential-endocannabinoid-system.

Synthetic Cannabinoids Nabilone

- Nabilone capsules
- Controlled Substance Class 2
- FDA approval: chemo-induced N/V (CINV)





Clinical Pharmacology Online Database.



The More Cs, the More Potency

Novel Cannabinoids

Cannabinoids and Carbon Chains



Novel Cannabinoids Cannabinoids and Carbon Chains

The More Cs, the More Potency



Novel Cannabinoids THC-P & CBD-P

- 7-carbon chain as compared to 5-carbon chain
- THC-P (tetrahydrocannabiphorol)
 THC-P is 33x > potent than THC
- CBD-P (cannabidiphorol)
- First observed naturally in an Italian medicinal cannabis variety
 Italian FM2







Novel Cannabinoids THC-B & CBD-B

- Butyl 4-carbon chain
- THC-B (tetrahydrocannabutol)
- CBD-B (cannabidibutol)







Novel Cannabinoids THC-V & CBD-V

- Varinoid 3-carbon chain
 - Minimum Cs for CB-receptor binding
- THC-V (tetrahydrocannabivarin)

• CBD-V (cannabidivarin)







Novel Cannabinoids THC-C & CBD-C

- Orcinoid 1-carbon chain
- THC-C (tetrahydrocannabiorcol)
- CBD-C (cannabidiorcol)







Cannabis & Cannabinoids





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Cannabis & Cannabinoid Pharmacology

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