



Canadian Consortium for the Investigation of Cannabinoids
Consortium Canadien pour l'Investigation des Cannabinoïdes

Annual Report | 2011

Cannabinoid research and education: Building the core

Message from the Executive Director

Dear colleagues and friends

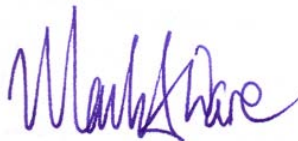
Reading through this Annual Report is an excellent way to appreciate how much the CCIC has done over the past year, and to reflect on how much impact we are having on the world of cannabinoid research and education. Support for students in basic science labs to attend meetings, and to start novel research projects, is at the heart of our 'core building' mission: to see the next generation of Canadian cannabinoid researchers extend their wings and showcase their work globally.

Given the strides that are being taken in advancing the frontiers of cannabinoid science by our basic science colleagues, the challenge now is to get this information into the hands of the practicing clinicians at the front lines of our health care system. Here the CCIC's education mission takes over. The need for education of health care providers on issues regarding medical cannabis use has never been greater, with new court challenges throwing the gauntlet back to Health Canada to educate physicians. As the Annual Report 2011 shows, the CCIC continues to be engaged in this work in CME events, conferences and seminars. Distilling a complex clinical and scientific knowledge base into useable 'chunks', while maintaining the input of community organizations and patient participation, is a challenge, and our team of content experts, advisors, and reviewers are to be commended for keeping the output balanced and user-friendly. It sounds like we are making a fine wine!

We expect 2012 to be another good year, and your participation and engagement makes the work we do at the central office much easier. Once more I would like to recognize the work of Daniel Ziemianski who keeps all our wheels turning and our website fresh and interesting. Be sure to check in periodically to www.ccic.net to see his new work on vaporization, clinical updates, and literature reviews. Thanks Daniel!

I trust that all CCIC members will continue to help us build the CCIC in the year to come, and take pride in the year we have had. This is a collective effort, and we look forward to working with you all as we take our research and education agenda forward. I sense good things on the horizon.

Respectfully,



Dr Mark A. Ware
Executive Director, CCIC

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Linda Parker
Mark Ware

Funding Competition Sub-Committee

Matthew Hill
Linda Parker
Mark Ware



John Clark, Mary Lynch and Mark Ware at the Canadian Pain Society Meeting in Calgary (May 2010)

Mission statement

The purpose of the Canadian Consortium for the Investigation of Cannabinoids (CCIC) is to promote evidence-based research and education concerning the endocannabinoid system and therapeutic applications of endocannabinoid and cannabinoid agents.

Organization

History

The CCIC first came together in the spring of 2000 as a result of initial funding from the CIHR under the leadership of Dr Mary Lynch. Since that time the CCIC has grown to include basic science and clinical researchers and other health care practitioners. The CCIC has been consulted for Senate committee reports and regulatory guidelines for medical marijuana, and CCIC members have conducted and published research on cannabinoids.

In June 2007 the CCIC became a federally incorporated non-profit organization to continue to further our understanding of cannabinoids. The need for educational initiatives has also become clear and the CCIC aims also to provide a credible source of information on cannabinoids for the public and health care practitioners.

Update

In response to an increasing range of applications for membership to the Consortium from individuals not eligible for existing Member categories, the Membership Committee established a policy for non-member involvement. In adherence with the vision and objectives of the Consortium, the Membership Committee aims to provide access to evidence based research and education to interested individuals while acknowledging the basis of existing Membership criteria. In response an “Observer” category has been introduced and implemented in 2011. Observers are individuals who have demonstrated a sustained interest in the mission of the Consortium, but who do not qualify for Active, Associate, Honorary or Emeritus Membership.

There are 49 Observers to the CCIC consisting of pharmaceutical company employees, patients, members of activist groups, and interested persons from non-medical backgrounds.

Outreach

In 2011 the CCIC continued to engage the healthcare community either through workshops, poster presentations or presence at the following conferences:

- American Psychiatric Association: 164th Annual Meeting, Honolulu, USA
- Canadian Pain Society, Annual Pain Conference 2011, Niagara Falls, Canada
- Family Medicine Forum 2011, Montreal, Canada
- International Cannabinoid Research Society: 2011 Annual Symposium, St. Charles, USA
- McGill Pain Day: 2011, Montreal, Canada



Daniel Ziemianski (left) and Linda Ferguson (right) at the American Psychiatric Association Annual Meeting

Symposium

Cannabinoids in Clinical Practice: Challenges and Opportunities

A CME half-day event at the ICRS 2011 Annual Meeting

The Canadian Consortium for the Investigation of Cannabinoids (CCIC), in partnership with the International Cannabinoid Research Society (ICRS) and the University of California San Francisco Office of Continuing Medical Education (UCSF OCME) hosted a half-day continuing medical education event on cannabinoids in clinical practice at Pheasant Run Resort in St. Charles Illinois, USA on Friday July 8th, 2011.

This event featured world renowned expert speakers from Canada, Italy, the UK and the USA presenting up-to-date clinically relevant cannabinoid research and information. This was the first CCIC accredited cannabinoid education event held in the USA. It was also the first clinically focused event at an ICRS annual meeting. The aim of this event was to bridge basic and clinical science and translate research into clinically meaningful information for physicians. The event was fully accredited by UCSF OCME.

54 participants attended the symposium. Evaluation responses on the overall quality of the activity, the selection of topic and the overall quality of faculty and content were excellent.

To build this success, the CCIC and ICRS will continue to work together to showcase clinically focused accredited cannabinoid education events in the future. We would like to thank the steering committee, presenters, UCSF OCME staff and the ICRS for their contributions.



University of California
San Francisco

advancing health worldwide™

Pheasant Run

ICRS2011

Education

The CCIC continued its commitment to engaging health care practitioners regarding therapeutic issues surrounding cannabinoids and the endocannabinoid system.

In addition to maintaining our ACE on-line resources, a Cannabinoid focused Mainpro-C workshop and presentations and round table discussions on Cannabinoids and Spasticity were conducted in 2011.

Cannabinoids and Spasticity: Presentation and Round table discussion

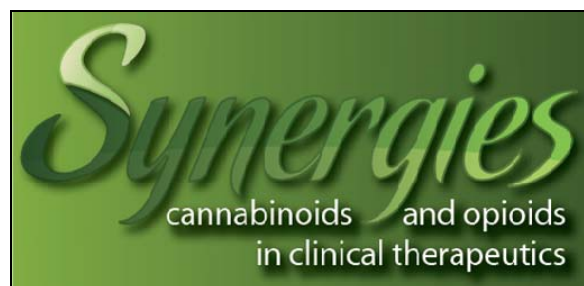


Cannabinoids & Spasticity

Toronto Tuesday April 19th, 7-9 pm Wildfire Steakhouse 3438 Yonge St. 416-483-4800 wildfiresteakhouse.com	Montréal Wednesday May 4th, 7-9 pm Restaurant Graziella 116 McGill St. 514-876-0116 restaurantgraziella.ca
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A highly interactive presentation and round table discussion on recent developments and practical issues surrounding the therapeutic uses of cannabinoids for spasticity in persons with Multiple Sclerosis was conducted in Montreal and Toronto. Two Canadian expert facilitators guided small groups of neurologists and physiatrists through an in-depth exploration of the evidence of safety and efficacy.

Cannabinoids Mainpro-C Workshop at the Family Medicine Forum 2011: Synergies – Cannabinoids and Opioids in Clinical Practice



To address concerns expressed in earlier ACE program feedback, and build upon the success of the Accredited Cannabinoid Education 3 Workshop Tour, this extended workshop focused on the use of cannabinoids in clinical practice in combination with and compared with opioids. Two expert facilitators engaged participants with practical clinical considerations including; patient selection, initiating, titrating and monitoring cannabinoids.

Education continued

[Visualization of the endocannabinoid signaling system](#) – In conjunction with the Quebec Pain Research Network and University of Toronto, Biomedical Communication, the CCIC supported a Master's research project visualizing the endocannabinoid signaling system. This educational tool is on YouTube and is available through the CCIC website.

[Vaporization online resources](#) – The CCIC online educational resources were expanded in 2011 to include an in depth section on vaporization. This material presents CCIC members and visitors to the website with evidence based information on vaporization, including: cannabinoid administration, pharmacokinetics and research into inhalation as a mode for drug delivery. Information on the approved medical device in Canada including a description and images, followed by a thorough list of relevant literature can now be found online.

Funding Competition

The second annual CCIC Funding Competition awarded \$10 000.00 to six trainee members to support their cannabinoid research efforts. CCIC trainee members conducting basic science research on cannabinoids were eligible for this year's competition. We would like to thank all those who applied and acknowledge our 2011 recipients. The Graduate Student Summer Research Support award provided \$5000.00 to encourage and support basic science cannabinoid research. This award is intended to support a graduate student for their summer term in pursuing basic science cannabinoid research. The Trainee Conference Support awards provided \$1000.00 to support five graduate students or post-doctoral researchers for their presentation of an abstract at a national or international conference.

[Graduate Student Summer Research Support Award Recipient](#)

Martin Sticht, MSc Candidate,
Department of Psychology,
University of Guelph, Guelph, Canada

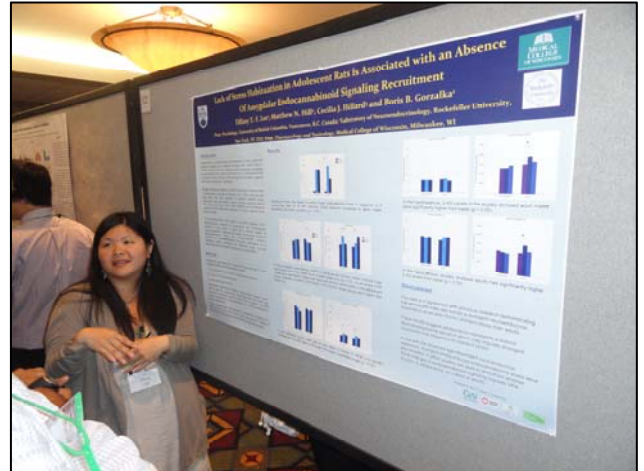
My summer research aims to identify how the endogenous cannabinoid system (ECS) is involved in visual object recognition memory in rats using a technique (spontaneous object recognition) analogous to the study of similar processes in primates (visual paired comparison). Therefore, these studies will provide a systematic investigation of cannabinoid effects on object recognition memory in rats, as well as advance our understanding of ECS involvement in mammalian memory processes.



Funding Competition continued

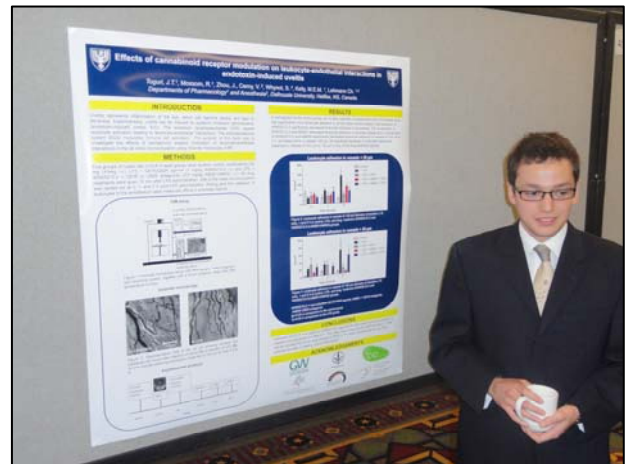
Trainee Conference Support Award Recipients

Tiffany Lee, PhD Candidate
Department of Psychology, University of British Columbia, Vancouver BC, Canada
Lack of stress habituation in adolescent rats is associated with an absence of amygdalar endocannabinoid signaling recruitment.
International Cannabinoid Research Society 2011, St. Charles IL, USA – Poster presentation



Erin Rock, PhD Candidate
Department of Psychology,
University of Guelph, Guelph ON, Canada
Cannabidiol may attenuate vomiting and nausea by acting as an indirect 5-HT_{1a} agonist.
International Cannabinoid Research Society 2011, St. Charles IL, USA – Oral presentation

J. Thomas Toguri, MSc Candidate
Department of Pharmacology, Dalhousie University,
Halifax NS, Canada
Effects of cannabinoid receptor modulation on leukocyte-endothelial interactions in endotoxin-induced uveitis.
International Cannabinoid Research Society 2011, St. Charles IL, USA – Poster presentation



Alexa Wakley, PhD Candidate
Department of Psychology, Washington State University,
Pullman WA, USA
Progesterone Modulation of Δ^9 – Tetrahydrocannabinol-Induced Antinociception.
International Cannabinoid Research Society 2011, St. Charles IL, USA – Poster presentation

Jaclyn Wamstecker, PhD Candidate
Hotchkiss Brain Institute, Calgary AB, Canada
Lability of endocannabinoid signalling at hypothalamic synapses in response to behavioural and synaptic challenge.
Gordon Research Conference: Cannabinoid Function in the CNS, Les Diablerets, Switzerland – Oral presentation

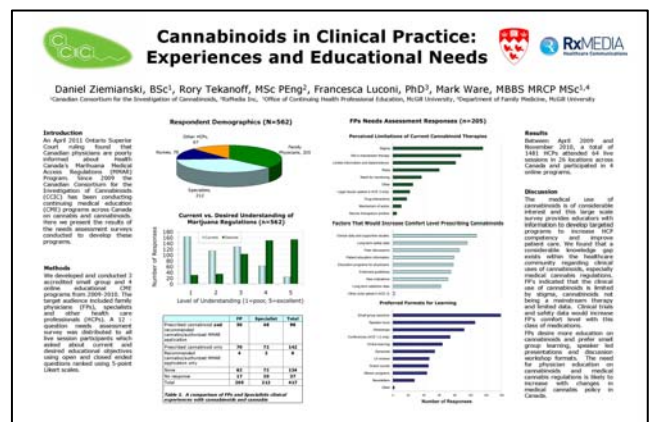
Research

The CCIC is committed to the advancement of basic and clinical research on the endocannabinoid system and therapeutic applications of cannabinoids.

Cannabinoids in Clinical Practice: Experiences and Educational Needs

The CCIC is actively engaged in research in continuing medical education. In parallel with the four Accredited Cannabinoid Education (ACE) programs developed and conducted between April 2009 and November 2010 a needs assessment survey has been distributed. Responses to this 12-question survey have been collected from over 500 healthcare professionals and provide insight into current and desired educational objectives.

CCIC staff has worked in collaboration with researchers from McGill University, Office of Continuing Health Professional Education and RxMedia Healthcare Communications to compile, analyze and disseminate information learned from these surveys. Results have been presented in research poster format at the Family Medicine Forum 2011, and McGill Pain Day 2011. This poster has also been accepted for presentation at the 2012 Annual Conference of the Canadian Pain Society.



The CCIC supported the following ongoing research projects

A Scoping Study to Determine the Current State of Knowledge on the Outcomes of Cannabinoid Use for Medicinal Purposes – Measures of Functionality.

James Henry, PhD, Department of Psychiatry and Behavioural Neuroscience, McMaster University, Hamilton Canada

Questionnaire on patterns of cannabis/marijuana use among persons admitted to a Palliative Care Program.

Paul Daeninck, MD, FRCPC, MSc, Faculty of Medicine, University of Manitoba, Winnipeg Canada

The CCIC received support for the following ongoing research project

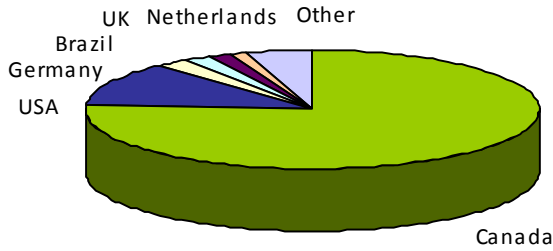
Cannabinoids and sleep architecture (CASA): a pilot study of the effects of nabilone on sleep.

Mark Ware, MBBS MRCP MSc, Canadian Consortium for the Investigation of Cannabinoids

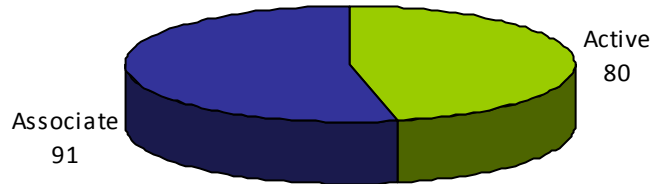
Membership

The CCIC welcomed 25 new Active and 19 new Associate members in 2011, bringing our total number of members to 171. Some characteristics of our members are shown below:

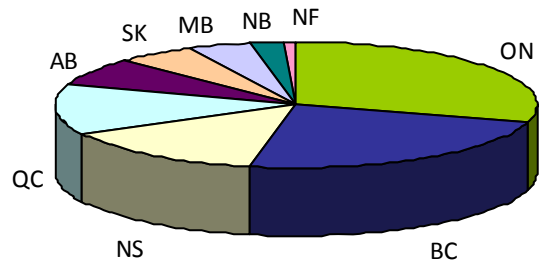
Member Countries



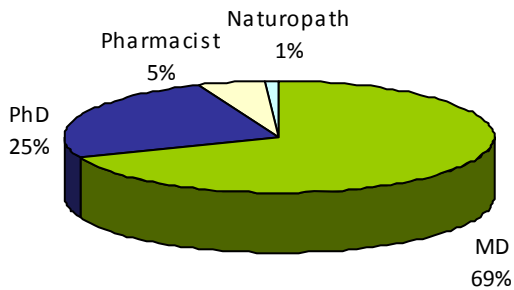
Consortium Members



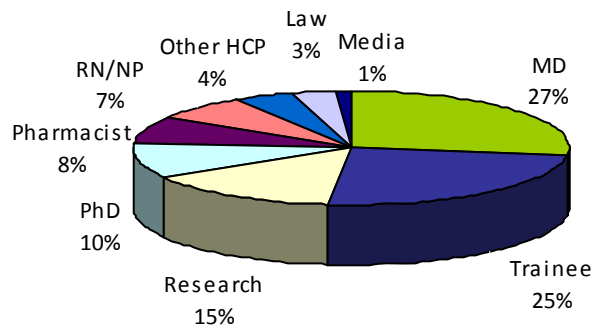
Canadian Member Provinces



Active Member Professions



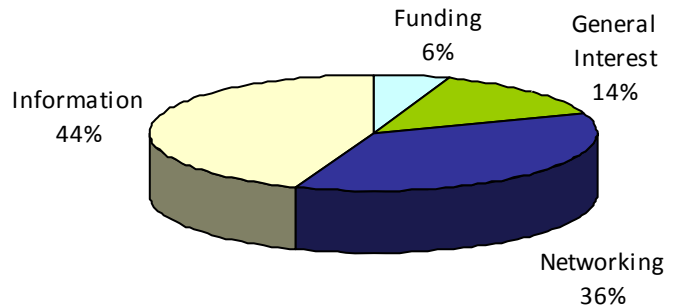
Associate Member Professions



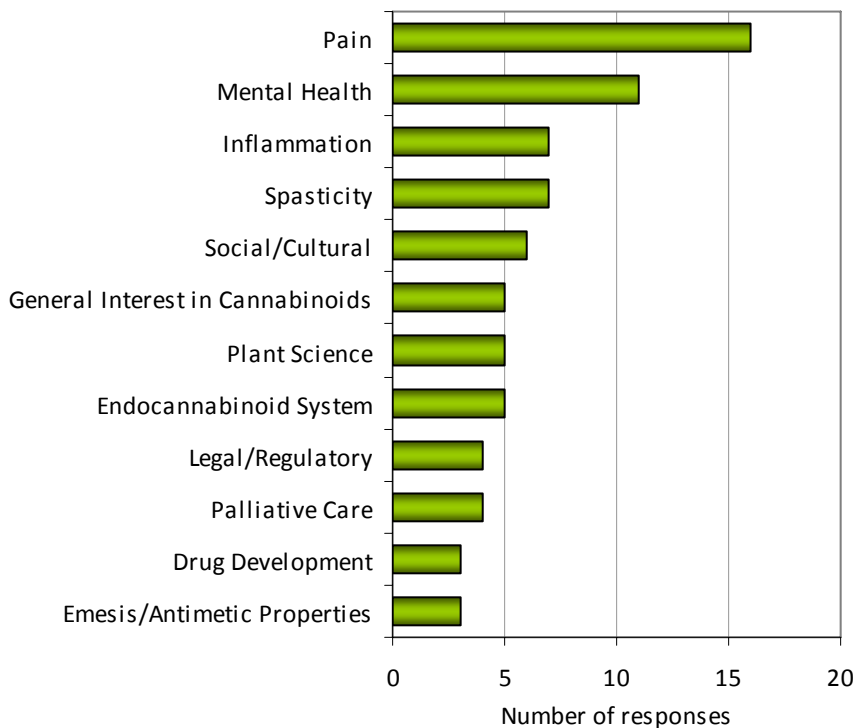
Membership

Increased engagement between CCIC staff and members as well as emphasis on member networking is a priority. As a first step in increased member engagement, the CCIC conducted a survey of member interests and various aspects of their involvement. Members were encouraged to complete the survey through links in the February, March, September and October 2011 Newsletters.

Primary Reason For Becoming a Member



Main Areas of Interest Related to Cannabinoids



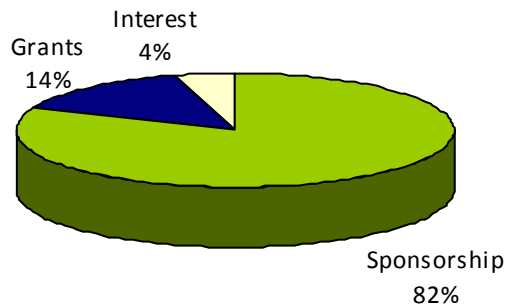
Results of the member survey have been compiled. 21 responses were submitted between February and November 2011. Although this represents only about 10% of members, it provides some insight as to the role the CCIC plays and responses have provided some feedback on possible areas for improvement.

95% (20/21) rated a very high or high level of satisfaction with the CCIC. All respondents expressed an interest in the development of a cannabinoid related online database. As a result, a listing of newly indexed articles on cannabinoids has been added to the CCIC's online material. Survey responses and suggestions also led to an update of the newsletter and regular distribution on a monthly basis

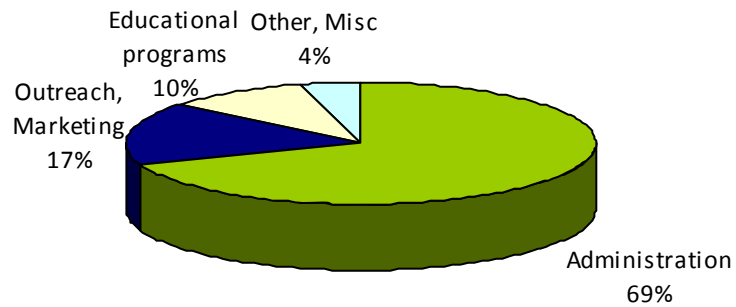
To continue engaging and tailoring the CCIC to meet the needs of its members, more specific surveys will be created and distributed to members throughout 2012. Future surveys will address educational and research needs.

Financial Statements

2011 Revenue



2011 Expenses



Revenue		
Sponsorship	\$88 000.00	81%
Grants	\$15 450.00	14%
Interest	\$4650.00	4%
Total	\$108 100.00	

Expenditures		
Administration	\$15 100.00	69%
Outreach/Marketing	\$36 500.00	17%
Education Programs	\$21 200.00	10%
Other, Misc	\$9 000.00	4%
Total	\$217 800.00	

CCIC Executive Team

Dr. Mark Ware
Executive Director

Marc Wayne
Director of Business Development

Linda Ferguson
Research Coordinator

Daniel Ziemianski
Education Coordinator

Partners and Collaborators

Throughout 2011, the CCIC worked with numerous organizations. They include the University of California San Francisco Office of Continuing Medical Education, the International Cannabinoid Research Society, the McGill University Centre for Continuing Health Professional Education, RxMedia Healthcare Communications Inc., University of Toronto Biomedical Communications, the Quebec Pain Research Network, Carters Professional Corporation, Samson Belair Deloitte & Touche Inc. We thank them all for their contributions to our ongoing success.

Acknowledgements

The Canadian Consortium for the Investigation of Cannabinoids wishes to acknowledge with special recognition in 2011,



The CCIC would also like to acknowledge the support received for individual initiatives from,





Canadian Consortium for the Investigation of Cannabinoids
Consortium Canadien Pour l'Investigation des Cannabinoïdes

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