ASA Science and Standards Work Crosses the Globe

ASA's continuing efforts on medical cannabis research and standards took staff around the world the past two months.

Webinars on Patents and Precision Medicine
ASA presented two webinars recently. The first, "IP Solutions for Cannabis," is a webinar on patents for industry companies, that is archived on ASA's youtube channel. The second was a prestigious, accredited LabRoots Cannabis and Precision Medicine Webinar.

International Cannabinoid Research Society
ASA Executive Director Steph Sherer and Dr. David Mangone, Director of Government Affairs (pictured), and ASA volunteers delivered to policy makers model legislation for how to allow patients to trade their opioid prescriptions for a medical cannabis cards.

ASA Educating Lawmakers from All 50 States
ASA attended the annual Legislative Summit of the National Conference of State Legislators from July 29 to August 2 in Los Angeles. ASA was one of 200 exhibiting organizations sharing information with more than 5,000 attendees, including over 1,000 legislators representing all 50 states. The 129 sessions included many on matters related to safe access, including a webinar on lessons learned from states about the opioid crisis.

David Mangone, Director of Government Affairs (pictured), and ASA volunteers delivered to policy makers model legislation for how to allow patients to trade their opioid prescriptions for a medical cannabis cards.

Missouri Voters Will Face 3 Cannabis Initiatives
Missouri voters will find three different medical cannabis measures on the ballot when they go to the polls in November. The state's legislature had been considering a bill that would have created a robust program, but it died in conference committee at the end of the session.

The Missouri secretary of state announced August 2 that three patient advocacy groups each filed enough signatures to qualify their initiatives. Two of the measures are constitutional amendments, which put them largely out of reach of meddling by state lawmakers, while the third would amend existing law.

The constitutional amendment sponsored by New Approach Missouri would, similar to Oklahoma's new law, allow physicians to recommend medical cannabis for any condition. If enacted, it would create regulated dispensaries whose products would have an excise tax of 4% and allow personal cultivation of up to six plants.

The other constitutional amendment, proposed by Find the Cures, specifies qualifying conditions, allows for dispensaries whose products would be taxed at 15% percent.

The statutory change put on the ballot by Missourians for Patient Care also specifies qualifying conditions and allows for sales, which would be taxed at 2%.

Missouri is currently a limited-access CBD-only state. The legislature in 2014 passed a bill allowing patients with a seizure disorder and a neurologist’s recommendation to use cannabis extracts with no more than 0.3% THC, which has been available since 2016 through just two licensed providers in the state.

Education for Physicians in New York
Educating medical professionals is part of ASA's work, and in June, ASA Chief Scientist and PFC Director Jahan Marcu PhD was invited to King's County Hospital in Brooklyn, New York for two talks. On June 6, he discussed how cannabis interacts with the human endocannabinoid system with the Emergency Medicine department and oncology doctors. On June 7, he did grand rounds with medical students and faculty on cannabis and cancer. The hospital is exploring working with ASA's Patient Focused Certification program on researching existing product use.

College on Problems of Drug Dependence
From June 9-14, ASA staff attended the big Continued on page 2

ASA Presents Info at Abilities Expo Chicago
From June 29-July 1, ASA Associate Director Debbie Churgai was in Chicago for an Abilities Expo, where she presented a workshop on "How Medical Cannabis Can Help People with Disabilities." The presentation explained how cannabis can be an option for treating a variety of conditions and how qualifying patients can access it where they live. The presentation also explained how new patients can learn more about medical cannabis from ASA's Cannabis Care Certification program. The ASA information table was supported by ASA volunteer, Joy Grainge (pictured).

ASA has presented medical cannabis information to receptive audiences at other Abilities Expo events. The expos are about bringing necessary products and services together under one roof for the community of people with disabilities, their families, caregivers, seniors, and healthcare professionals.

Upcoming Abilities Expos will be in Houston, Boston, San Mateo, Toronto and New York. If you are interested in volunteering in your area, please contact info@safeaccessnow.org.
ASA Activist Profile: Nic Easley, Colorado

Nic Easley’s introduction to medical cannabis came courtesy of injuries he sustained serving his country. The doctors at the VA prescribed medications to help him, but in 2006, four years after his honorable discharge from the Air Force, Nic turned first to the mountains then to cannabis in hopes of better results. He found them.

What he also found, to his surprise, was that the caregiver who was cultivating and providing that cannabis knew little about agriculture. Nic, on the other hand, had grown up in the farmland of Wisconsin where he had the opportunity during middle school to work on field studies with a PhD Botanist before obtaining college degrees in Environmental Studies and Biology. A casual question to his caregiver -- “How do you grow this?” -- got him a look at the operation.

“It was amateur,” Nic says. “I wondered, how is this medicine being grown by people who have no idea about agriculture or pesticides?”

The advice Nic gave his caregiver led to referrals to other growers who needed guidance. That was the start of his business, 3C Comprehensive Cannabis Consulting. The 2009 explosion in medical cannabis businesses in Colorado became his focus, putting his scientific background and 15 years of agricultural production.

“We’re already dealing with stigma,” Nic says. “We don’t need to add to that bad practices that come from an illicit-market mentality.”

Nic’s background is science, but as his consulting business took off, he was able to hire people with strong business skills to address how to create a sustainable, socially just industry. 3C currently has clients in 26 states and 11 countries. Nic has also started a cannabis investment fund, Multiverse Capital, of which he is also CEO and managing partner. He has served on several state regulatory boards responsible for everything from agriculture and pesticides to business practices and public health.

“My goal is a safe product that’s not going to cause additional harm,” Nic says. “That’s why I like ASA’s Patient Focused Certification so much. In states without mandated testing, we have to educate people and work in the market to resolve problems and revise policies.”

Looking forward, Nic sees accelerating change but a long process before federal acceptance.

The Werc Shop (WA), Kannavis (MD) BASA Patients Group (CA), Humboldt’s finest (CA), PFC Certifying Analytic Labs, Other Cannabis Businesses

In July, Consumer Safety Analytics Laboratory (AKA CannaSafe) of Van Nuys, California was certified for laboratory analysis of medical cannabis products under ASA’s Patient Focused Certification (PFC) program, one of several certified in the past two months.

CannaSafe is the first laboratory to be awarded certification in southern California to engage in the PFC program. To achieve PFC certification, laboratories must pass two assessments each cycle. Assessment involve a facility inspection and review of method validation reports, employee training records, and other documentation required by law.

“Going through the process of PFC certification has brought numerous benefits to our business and our clients, as well as their patients and consumers,” said Antonio Fraizier, Director of Operations at CannaSafe.

“The PFC program has helped us attain the highest levels of standards and consistency in testing cannabis products. We will be offering a discount on testing services to other cannabis businesses enrolled in the PFC program. The program has saved us potentially thousands of dollars by ensuring we were prepared for regulatory inspections and the staff is properly trained.”

CannaSafe joins a growing list of PFC certified cannabis businesses since the program was launched in 2015, including Harvest of Tempe (AZ), Sonoma Lab Works (CA), Berkeley Patients Group (CA), Humboldt’s finest (CA), The Werc Shop (WA), Kannavis (MD) BASA Collective (CA) and many others.

ASA OUTREACH, continued from page 1

annual meeting of the College on Problems of Drug Dependence in San Diego, California, to talk about CBD research and safety studies. Representatives from the U.S. Food and Drug Administration were there to discuss regulations in advance of their announcement approving the first cannabis-extract medication, Epidiolex.

ASTM International
From June 23-26, also in San Diego, ASA Chief Scientist and PFC Director Jahan Marcu PhD was at an ASTM International meeting on cannabis standards as chair of credentialing for the D37 Cannabis Committee, where ASA presented a video on training.

Upcoming ASA Events
At the end of August, ASA will be attending the Cannabis Science Conference in Portland Aug 27-30. See them at at booth 261.

September 21-23, ASA will be presenting again at the Abilities Expo in Boston.

ACTION ALERT: Register to Vote and Vote MMJ!

Are you registered to vote? Are all your friends and family? As Oklahoma and many other states have shown, voting makes all the difference for safe access. Deadlines for voter registration vary from state to state, but September is the cutoff for many. September is also when ASA will put out its voter guide at votemedicalmarijuana.org. Come election day, get out and vote for candidates who support safe access and help others do the same at votemedicalmarijuana.org.

JOIN TODAY!

YES! Please accept my donation

(check one) □ Monthly □ One-time □ $100 □ $50 □ $35 □ Other Amount $______

Name__________________________ □ Check or Money Order Enclosed.

Address__________________________ □ Visa □ Mastercard □ AmEx □ Discover

City, State, Zip__________________________ Card Number:__________________________

Phone__________________________ Signature:__________________________

Email__________________________ Exp. Date:_______ CVV Security Code_______

Mail to: Americans for Safe Access, 1624 U Street NW, Washington, D.C. 20009

www.AmericansForSafeAccess.org