

I am sending you two emails related to the question I received regarding how the two major universities in our state are using the funding received from the Dedicated Marijuana Account. Both have allocated provided funding for research studies. This first email is the information from the University of Washington. In the text below, Dr. Donovan also provided information about additional funding they received for: “. . .the creation, maintenance, and timely updating of web-based public education materials providing medically and scientifically accurate information about the health and safety risks posed by marijuana use.”

Please let me know if you have questions.

Thank you.

Regards,

Mary Segawa

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Extra patrols are out helping keep our roads safe. Distraction occurs any time you take your eyes off the road, hands off the wheel and mind off driving safely. If you're texting, you're not driving. Let's reach our Target Zero goal together – zero traffic deaths in your family, zero traffic deaths in our state.

April is Distracted Driving Awareness Month

From: Dennis M. Donovan [mailto:[ddonovan@u.washington.edu](mailto:ddonovan@u.washington.edu)]  
Sent: Friday, April 01, 2016 6:58 AM  
To: Kevin Haggerty <[haggerty@uw.edu](mailto:haggerty@uw.edu)>; Segawa, Mary B (LCB) <[mary.segawa@lcb.wa.gov](mailto:mary.segawa@lcb.wa.gov)>  
Cc: Hill, Laura Griner <[laurahill@wsu.edu](mailto:laurahill@wsu.edu)>  
Subject: RE: Research funding

Hello, Mary:

The University of Washington DID accept the I-502 funds. The Office of Research had a task force (Roger Roffman, Nephi Stella and I served as faculty members on it) to develop guidelines for marijuana-administration research. A copy of these guidelines are attached. One of the bigger barriers of such research has been the limited availability of marijuana for use in administration studies. Nephi Stella is the only faculty member on campus to have a FDA license to be able to get NIH approved marijuana for research. The amount being grown and now available has been increased but it still requires an FDA license. A bill passed in this most recent state legislative session will now allow

growers/processors in the state to be able to provide marijuana to both UW and WSU for research purposes; proposed marijuana-administration research will need to be reviewed and approved through an independent review process.

The Alcohol and Drug Abuse Institute (ADAI) has been the UW recipient of dedicated/earmarked I-502 marijuana funds. From funds we have already received this fiscal year, we have funded four marijuana-related small grants (Characterizing Cannabis Use in Veterans with Posttraumatic Stress Disorder; Steps Toward a Nation-wide Examination of the Effect of Marijuana-related Legislation on Adolescent Substance Use and Related Risk Factors; Development of a Novel and Translational Model of Binge Ethanol and Tetrahydrocannabinol Intake in Adolescent Rats; Marijuana Use and Disorders from Adolescence into Young Adulthood: Examining Descriptive Epidemiology and Mental Health Risk Factors in a Community-based Prospective Cohort). These four were selected following scientific review from five marijuana-related proposals; three of these four are from the School of Medicine/Department of Psychiatry and Behavioral Sciences, while the other is from the School of Social Work. I have attached a brief summary of these studies which are currently underway. We received 10 marijuana-specific proposals on March 15th in the most recent round of small grants applications.

In addition to research being conducted through the Small Grants program, some of the I-502 funds are being used by ADAI to develop research and policy briefs and fact sheets around marijuana-related topics based on literature reviews. As an example, one addresses the methodological differences in epidemiological surveys that lead to differences in the estimates of marijuana use in adult and adolescent samples (<http://adai.uw.edu/pubs/infobriefs/marijuanausesurveys.pdf>). A copy of this is attached. ADAI Research Scientists are also using some of the I-502 funds for intramural research. Some is being used to conduct additional analyses from a project originally funded by the Traffic Safety Research branch of the AAA Foundation that is evaluating the acute versus chronic marijuana use, based on data from the state toxicology lab, the Traffic Safety Commission, and the State Patrol, in automobile accidents and driving while impaired arrests. Other funds are supporting secondary analyses of the relationship between marijuana use, both medical and recreational, by individuals who are HIV positive, using longitudinal 8 years data from a large national multisite database generated by Centers for AIDS Research (CFARs) across the country. It will look at data from states with well-established medical cannabis laws, states that are transitioning or only recently implemented, medicinal cannabis laws, and those states that have no current such laws. Another project is a form of "secret shopper" research in which staff are contacting help lines (if they are found to exist) as if seeking information and assistance for marijuana use problems in states with recreational marijuana laws as well as medicinal cannabis laws.

Just to give you a sense of some of the marijuana activities ongoing at ADAI, I have attached a pdf file that reviews some of these activities. Also, as you may recall, we have had a marijuana information website since prior to the I-502 vote to inform voters and this has been supported by earmarked I-502 funds over the past year

(<http://learnaboutmarijuanawa.org/>). It provides information for adolescents, parents, adult users, researchers, and policy makers. Here are metrics on its use:

Lifetime of site (launched around January 2012):

2,729,535 sessions

2,445,908 users

3,105,649 pages viewed

Last 12 months

816,749 sessions

732,595 users

928,308 pages viewed

We have also developed a web-based training on the use of medical cannabis for the management of chronic pain, funded by a grant from the Washington State Attorney General's office. CME credits are available through the UW School of Medicine, Office of Continuing Medical Education: Medicinal Cannabis and Chronic Pain (<http://adai.uw.edu/mcacp/>). We are currently in negotiations with the Department of Health to expand this training for health providers about issues in the potential use of medicinal cannabis in treatment of other medical conditions in addition to pain.

I-502 funds, along with funds from an ADAI endowment, are being used to support our second symposium on marijuana-related research. The first, which I believe you attended, was held in November, 2013, (<http://adai.uw.edu/mjsymposium/index2013.htm>); the second is scheduled for May 20th in the UW Tower Auditorium (<http://adai.uw.edu/mjsymposium/>).

I hope this helps you to respond to the Vermont inquiry.

Dennis

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