



## Marijuana Compound Induces Cell Death In Hard-To-Treat Brain Cancer

**Madrid, Spain:** The combined administration of THC and the pharmaceutical agent temozolomide (TMZ) demonstrates strong anti-cancer activity in brain tumors resistant to conventional anti-cancer treatments, according to preclinical [data](#) published online in the journal *Molecular Cancer Therapeutics*.

Investigators at Complutense University in Spain assessed the anti-tumor activity of the cannabinoids THC and CBD ([cannabidiol](#)) in [glioma](#) xenografts (tissue grafts).

Authors reported that the administration of THC in combination with TMZ (the benchmark agent for the management of glioblastoma) "enhanced autophagy" (programmed cell death) in malignant tissue. The combined administration of THC, CBD, and TMZ "remarkably reduce[d] the growth of glioma xenografts ... [and] produced a strong antitumoral action in both TMZ-sensitive and TMZ-resistant tumors."

They concluded, "Altogether,

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### Washington: Lawmakers To Debate Measure To Regulate Marijuana Sales For Adults

**Olympia, WA, USA:** A coalition of House lawmakers have [introduced](#) legislation that seeks to legalize and regulate the "production, distribution, and sale" of marijuana to adults.

As introduced, [House Bill 1550](#) would allow for the state-authorized cultivation and distribution of marijuana and marijuana-related products.

"[T]he legislature intends to promote commerce and competition within Washington by eliminating penalties for the possession and consumption of cannabis, regulating and taxing the sale of cannabis by state government, and licensing cannabis growers," it states.

The measure has been referred

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### Bush Holdover Unanimously Confirmed To Head U.S. Drug Enforcement Administration

**Washington, DC, USA:** The U.S. Senate has [confirmed](#) Michelle Leonhart by unanimous consent to head the United States Drug Enforcement Administration (DEA). Ms. Leonhart had served as interim director of the agency since November 2007. President Barack Obama had nominated Leonhart in February to serve as the agency's permanent director.

Numerous drug policy reform organizations, including NORML, had [opposed](#) Leonhart's confirmation – arguing that her actions as interim DEA administrator were [contrary](#) to the Obama administration's pledge to allow science, rather than rhetoric and ideology, guide public policy.

For example, Ms. Leonhart

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## The Willamette Valley NORML News Report

is an all-volunteer, not-for-profit project to record and broadcast news, announcements and information about cannabis law reform.

The W-V-NORML News Report is produced by the Eugene, OREGON chapter of NORML, the National Organization for the Reform of Marijuana Laws

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*Check 'em out on-line! visit:*

**WillametteValleyNORML.org**

## A Voice for Responsible Marijuana Smokers

Since its founding in 1970, NORML has provided a voice in the public policy debate for those Americans who oppose marijuana prohibition and favor an end to the practice of arresting marijuana smokers. A nonprofit public-interest advocacy group, NORML represents the interests of the tens of millions of Americans who smoke marijuana responsibly. During the 1970s, NORML led the successful efforts to decriminalize minor marijuana offenses in 11 states and significantly lower marijuana penalties in all others.

The oldest and largest marijuana legalization organization in the country, NORML maintains a professional staff in Washington, DC, and a network of volunteer state and local [NORML Chapters](#) across the country. Check 'em out, and find the one nearest you!

**The NORML mission is to move public opinion sufficiently to achieve the repeal of marijuana prohibition so that the responsible use of cannabis by adults is no longer subject to penalty.**

When marijuana is enjoyed responsibly, subjecting users to harsh criminal and civil penalties provides no public benefit and causes terrible injustices. For reasons of public safety, public health, economics and justice, the prohibition laws should be repealed to the extent that they criminalize responsible marijuana use. **NORML, the National Organization for the Reform of Marijuana Laws – is located at 1600 K Street, NW, Suite 501, Washington, DC 20006-2832. Phone (202) 483-5500, Fax: (202) 483-0057 or visit: [www.norml.org](http://www.norml.org)**

Willamette Valley NORML is your local network in the fight to reform state and federal marijuana laws, whether by voter initiative or through the elected legislatures. W-V-NORML will serve as an informational resource to media on marijuana-related stories, providing a perspective to offset the [anti-marijuana propaganda](#) from the government; lobby state and federal legislators in support of reform legislation; publish a regular [newsletter](#); host an informative web site; and serve as the umbrella group for a regional network of citizen-activists committed to ending marijuana prohibition and legalizing marijuana.

Along with their parent organization, W-V-NORML will sponsor public advertising campaigns to better educate the public about marijuana and alternatives to current marijuana policy; provide legal assistance and support to victims of the current laws; and promote relevant research.

W-V-NORML supports the right of adults to use marijuana responsibly, whether for [medical](#) or [personal](#) purposes. All penalties, both civil and criminal, should be eliminated for responsible use. W-V-NORML also advocates the legalization of [hemp](#) (non-psychoactive marijuana) for industrial use. **To find out more, like how you can help, call, write or visit our website. You'll be glad you did!**

<continued from BRAIN CANCER, page 1 > our findings support that the combined administration of TMZ and cannabinoids could be therapeutically exploited for the management of GBM (glioblastoma multiforme)."

A 2006 pilot [study](#) published in the *British Journal of Cancer* reported that the intratumoral administration of THC was associated with reduced tumor cell proliferation in two of nine human subjects with GBM, which is highly resistant to conventional anti-cancer treatments.

Separate preclinical [studies](#) assessing the anti-cancer activity of cannabinoids and endocannabinoids indicate that the substances can inhibit the proliferation of various types of cancerous cells, including breast carcinoma, prostate carcinoma, colorectal carcinoma, gastric adenocarcinoma, skin carcinoma, leukemia cells, neuroblastoma, lung carcinoma, uterus carcinoma, thyroid epithelioma, pancreatic adenocarcinoma, cervical carcinoma, oral cancerbiliary tract cancer (cholangiocarcinoma), and lymphoma.

For more information, please contact Paul Armentano, NORML Deputy Director, at: [paul@norml.org](mailto:paul@norml.org). Full text of the study, "A Combined Preclinical Therapy of Cannabinoids and Temozolomide against Glioma," appears in the journal *Molecular Cancer Therapeutics*.

<continued from WASHINGTON, page 1 > to the House Committee on Public Safety and Emergency Preparedness, which rejected a similar measure last year by a 6 to 2 [vote](#).

"I'm confident our bill will break the back of cannabis crime-syndicate profits and make it possible to preserve vital health services across Washington in these very difficult budget times," stated the bill's lead sponsor, Democrat Mary Lou Dickerson.

According to a 2010 [analysis](#) by the Washington state Office of Financial Management, legalizing and taxing marijuana sales could yield over \$300 million in new revenue per biennium. [Proponents](#) also argue that passage of the act

could also result in an additional estimated \$25 million per year in law enforcement savings. Similar legalization measures are expected to be introduced in other states later this year, including California and Massachusetts.

For more information on this measure, please visit [NORML's Take Action Center](#), or visit the Washington state chapter of the American Civil Liberties Union (ACLU) at: <http://www.aclu-wa.org/issues/drug-policy>.

<continued from BUSH LEAGUE DEA, page 1 > oversaw dozens of [federal raids](#) on medical marijuana providers and producers. These actions took place in states that have enacted laws allowing for the use and distribution of marijuana for medical purposes, and are inconsistent with an October 19, 2009 Department of Justice [memo](#) recommending federal officials no longer "focus ... resources ... on individuals whose actions are in clear and unambiguous compliance with existing state laws providing for the medical use of marijuana."

Ms. Leonhart also blocked scientific research that sought to better identify and quantify marijuana's medicinal properties and efficacy. In particular, Ms. Leonhart neglected to reply to an eight-year-old [petition](#) calling for administrative hearings regarding the rescheduling of marijuana for medical use. Such hearings [were called for](#) in 2009 by the American Medical Association, which resolved "that marijuana's status as a federal Schedule I controlled substance be reviewed with the goal of facilitating the conduct of clinical research and development of cannabinoid-based medicines." Moreover, in January 2009, Ms. Leonhart [refused](#) to issue a license to the University of Massachusetts for the purpose of cultivating marijuana for FDA-approved research, despite a DEA administrative law judge's ruling that it would be "in the public interest" to grant this request.



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<continued from previous page> Finally, Ms. Leonhart has exhibited questionable judgment when speaking about the subject of escalating drug war violence in Mexico. In 2009, she described this border violence — which is responsible for over 31,000 deaths since December 2006 — as a sign of the "success" of her agency's anti-drug strategies.

Commenting on Ms. Leonhart's confirmation, NORML Deputy Director Paul Armentano said, "Ms. Leonhart's actions and ambitions are incompatible with state law, public opinion, and with the policies of this administration. It is unlikely that we will see any serious change in the DEA's direction under Ms. Leonhart's leadership."

In December, Wisconsin Democrat Herb Kohl had [placed a hold](#) on Ms. Leonhart's nomination. Senator Kohl dropped his hold on December 22, and the Senate confirmed Leonhart's nomination the following day.

*For more information, please contact Allen St. Pierre, NORML Executive Director, at (202) 483-5500 or Paul Armentano, NORML Deputy Director, at: [paul@norml.org](mailto:paul@norml.org).*

## Colorado: Medical Marijuana Dispensaries Not Associated With Increased Crime

**Denver, CO, USA:** An analysis of Denver crime statistics for 2010 contradicts claims that the operation of medical marijuana dispensaries are associated with elevated incidences of criminal activity.

According to a *Denver Post* [story](#) published this week: "A Denver police analysis completed late last year of areas around dispensaries showed that the number of crimes in those pockets dropped in the first nine months of 2010 compared with the same period in 2009. The drop, 8.2 percent, was marginally less than the city's overall drop in crime of 8.8 percent, according to police."

A separate *Denver Post* analysis of citywide crime crimes committed in the first 11 months of 2010 found that "some Denver

neighborhoods with the highest concentration of dispensaries per capita saw a bigger decrease in crimes than did some neighborhoods with no dispensaries."

Over 800 state-licensed medical marijuana dispensaries presently operate in Colorado. The highest concentration of these facilities is in Denver.

Previous analyses have also failed to find any association between the proliferation of medical cannabis dispensaries and elevated crime rates. For example, a 2010 [review](#) by the *Colorado Springs Gazette* newspaper reported, "[P]olice have yet to find a correlation between the city's approximately 175 pot shops and increased crime."

A similar [2009 review](#) of Los Angeles crime data also failed to establish a positive link between medical marijuana facilities and crime.

*For more information, please contact Allen St. Pierre, NORML Executive Director, at: (202) 483-5500.*

## Cincinnati City Council Agrees To Suspend Municipal Marijuana Recriminalization Ordinance

**Cincinnati, OH, USA:** Cincinnati city council members have agreed to a 2011 fiscal budget plan that repeals the city's four-year-old marijuana recriminalization law, *The Cincinnati Enquirer* has [reported](#).

Under Ohio [state law](#), the possession of up to 100 grams of marijuana (approximately three ounces) is classified as a 'minor misdemeanor' punishable by a \$150 fine and no criminal record. In 2006, Cincinnati council members enacted a separate, more stringent citywide marijuana [ordinance](#) making minor marijuana possession offenses punishable by up to 30 days in jail, a \$250 fine, and a criminal record. According to [statistics](#) published online by the group Prioritize Cincinnati, implementation of the local ordinance increased municipal marijuana law enforcement costs by \$181,000,

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By repealing the ordinance, local police and prosecutors will once again have to apply the state law to defendants found to be in possession of marijuana within the city limits.

Council members' decision to suspend the law is one of several cost-cutting measures enacted in the new budget.

## Updated NORML Report Reviews Nearly 200 Studies On The Therapeutic Use of Cannabis

Washington, DC, USA:

NORML made available this week the Fourth Edition of its popular and comprehensive [booklet](#) "Emerging Clinical Applications for Cannabis & Cannabinoids: A Review of the Recent Scientific Literature.

Updated and revised for 2011, this report reviews approximately 200 newly published scientific studies assessing the safety and efficacy of marijuana and its compounds in the treatment and management of nineteen clinical indications: [Alzheimer's disease](#), [Amyotrophic Lateral Sclerosis](#) (ALS), [chronic pain](#), [diabetes mellitus](#), [dystonia](#), [fibromyalgia](#), [gastrointestinal disorders](#), [gliomas and other cancers](#), [hepatitis C](#), [human immunodeficiency virus](#) (HIV), [hypertension](#), [incontinence](#), [methicillin-resistant Staphylococcus aureus](#) (MRSA), [multiple sclerosis](#), [osteoporosis](#), [pruritus](#), [rheumatoid arthritis](#), [sleep apnea](#), and [Tourette's syndrome](#).

"The conditions profiled in this report were chosen because patients frequently inquire about the therapeutic use of cannabis to treat these disorders," said NORML Deputy Director Paul Armentano, the report's lead author. "In addition, many of the indications included in this report may be moderated by cannabis therapy. In several cases, preclinical data and clinical data indicates that cannabinoids may halt the progression of these diseases in a more efficacious manner than available



pharmaceuticals."

The updated report also features a new [section](#), authored by osteopath and medical cannabis specialist [Dr. Dustin Sulak](#), highlighting the significance of the [endocannabinoid system](#) and its role in maintaining mental and physiological health.

"As we continue to sort through the emerging science of cannabis and cannabinoids, one thing remains clear: a functional cannabinoid system is essential for health," writes Dr. Sulak. "From embryonic implantation on the wall of our mother's uterus, to nursing and growth, to responding to injuries, endocannabinoids help us survive in a quickly changing and increasingly hostile environment. As I realized this, I began to wonder: can an individual enhance his/her cannabinoid system by taking supplemental cannabis? Beyond treating symptoms, beyond even curing disease, can cannabis help us prevent disease and promote health by stimulating an ancient system that is hard-wired into all of us? I now believe the answer is yes."

Full text of the report is now available online from NORML's website at: [http://www.norml.org/index.cfm?Group\\_ID=7002](http://www.norml.org/index.cfm?Group_ID=7002). Hard copies will be available for purchase imminently. Print copies of the third edition of this report will be made available at a reduced rate for those seeking bulk orders.

For more information, please contact Paul Armentano, NORML Deputy Director, at: [paul@norml.org](mailto:paul@norml.org). For more information on bulk ordering, please contact: [Sabrina@norml.org](mailto:Sabrina@norml.org).

## Marijuana Compound Improves Brain And Liver Function In Animal Model Of Hepatic Encephalopathy

**Jerusalem, Israel:** The administration of the nonpsychotropic cannabinoid CBD ([cannabidiol](#)) restores liver function and improves brain pathology in an experimental model of hepatic encephalopathy (brain deterioration due to liver failure), according to preclinical [data](#) published online in *The British*

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<continued from previous page> *Journal of Pharmacology*. If untreated, [hepatic encephalopathy](#) can result in coma and death.

An international team of investigators from Israel and Greece assessed the impact of CBD on neurological and motor functions in mice induced with hepatic failure. They reported, "Neurological and cognitive functions were severely impaired in thioacetamide-treated mice and were restored by cannabidiol. Similarly, decreased motor activity in thioacetamide-treated mice was partially restored by cannabidiol."

Authors concluded, "Cannabidiol restores liver function, normalizes 5-HT levels and improves brain pathology in accordance with normalization of brain function."

A 2009 [review](#) published in the journal *Trends in Pharmacological Sciences* reported that CBD possesses over a dozen separate therapeutic properties – including [anti-cancer](#) properties, [anti-diabetic](#) properties, [anti-epileptic](#) properties, and [anti-bacterial](#) properties.

For more information, please contact Paul Armentano, NORML Deputy Director, at: [paul@norml.org](mailto:paul@norml.org). Full text of the study, "Cannabidiol improves brain and liver function in a fulminant hepatic failure-induced model of hepatic encephalopathy in mice," appears in the *British Journal of Pharmacology*.

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## Pot Compound Exerts Anticonvulsant Effects In Animal Models Of Epilepsy

**Reading, United Kingdom:** The administration of the nonpsychotropic cannabinoid CBD ([cannabidiol](#)) significantly reduces the incidences and severity of seizures, according to preclinical [data](#) published online in *Seizure: The Journal of the British Epilepsy Association*.

Investigators at the University of Reading, School of Pharmacy, in the United Kingdom assessed the anticonvulsant activity of CBD (administered in 1, 10, and 100mg/kg doses) in two established rodent seizure models, the

acute pilocarpine model of temporal lobe seizure and the penicillin model of partial seizure. Seizure activity was video recorded and scored offline using model-specific seizure severity scales. Authors reported: "CBD (all doses) significantly reduced the percentage of animals experiencing the most severe pilocarpine-induced seizures. In the penicillin model, CBD (all doses) significantly increased the percentage of seizure-free animals; CBD (100mg/kg) decreased the percentage of animals experiencing the most severe seizures, decreased median seizure severity and showed a strong trend to reduce mortality."

They concluded, "[T]hese results extend the anti-convulsant profile of CBD; when combined with a reported absence of psychoactive effects, this evidence strongly supports CBD as a therapeutic candidate for a diverse range of human epilepsies."

[Survey data](#) published in 2004 in the journal *Neurology* reported that 21 percent of subjects with epilepsy had used marijuana in the past year, "with the majority of active users reporting beneficial effects on seizures."

For more information, please contact Paul Armentano, NORML Deputy Director, at: [paul@norml.org](mailto:paul@norml.org). Full text of the study, "Cannabidiol exerts anti-convulsant effects in animal models of temporal lobe and partial seizures," appears online in *Seizure: The Journal of the British Epilepsy Association*.

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## New Jersey: Senate Committee To Hold Hearings On Rewriting State's Medical Marijuana Regulations

**Trenton, NJ, USA:** Senate lawmakers will hold a hearing next Thursday to debate whether to repeal [regulations](#) regarding the implementation of New Jersey's [Compassionate Medical Marijuana Act](#).

Members of the Senate Health Committee will also decide on a resolution affirming that a [proposal](#) by the state Board of Medical Examiners to mandate that New Jersey doctors wean their patients off of medical marijuana

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Last December, Senate lawmakers [voted](#) in favor of a concurrent resolution urging the Department of Health and Senior Services to revise draft regulations regarding the implementation of the New Jersey Compassionate Medical Marijuana Act. The Department had 30 days to rewrite the regulations, but [failed](#) to do so.

Lawmakers initially approved medical marijuana legalization [one year ago](#), but to date no rules for the new law have been implemented.

For more information, please contact [NORML New Jersey](#) or the [Coalition for Medical Marijuana - New Jersey](#) or write to: [media@cmmnj.org](mailto:media@cmmnj.org).

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## California: Oakland City Council Suspends Medical Marijuana Grow Plan

**Oakland, CA, USA:** Oakland City Council members voted last week [to suspend](#) plans to license and tax industrial sized medical cannabis producers. The decision came after federal officials [stated](#) that the Justice Department would likely pursue criminal or civil litigation against local marijuana growers as well as Oakland city officials if they moved forward with their licensing plans.

Oakland City Attorney John Russo had also issued a legal opinion saying the plan violated the state's medical marijuana laws and could place council members in legal jeopardy.

Council members [voted](#) 7 to 1 to withdraw the licensing ordinance but may revisit the issue later this year.

For more information, please contact Allen St. Pierre, NORML Executive Director, at (202) 483-5500 or Paul Armentano, NORML Deputy Director, at: [paul@norml.org](mailto:paul@norml.org).

## California: Marijuana Infraction Measure Becomes Law

**Sacramento, CA, USA:** Legislation that reduces the penalty for minor marijuana possession from a criminal misdemeanor to a civil infraction [took effect](#) this week in California.

Signed by outgoing California Governor Arnold Schwarzenegger in October, [SB 1449](#) amends the California Health and Safety Code so that the adult possession of up to 28.5 grams of marijuana for nonmedical purposes is reclassified from a criminal misdemeanor to an infraction, punishable by no more than a \$100 fine — no court appearance, no court costs, and no criminal record.

The new law took effect on January 1, 2011. It is similar to existing laws in [Colorado](#), [Maine](#), [Massachusetts](#), [Nebraska](#), and [New York](#) where private, non-medical possession of marijuana is treated as a civil, non-criminal offense.

"This a common sense, fiscally responsible proposal that will reprioritize California's criminal justice resources without altering public safety," NORML Deputy Director Paul Armentano said. "The enactment of this law will save the state millions of dollars in judicial and prosecutorial costs by keeping minor marijuana offenders out of court. The number of misdemeanor pot arrests had surged in recent years, reaching [61,388](#) in 2008. Adults who consume marijuana responsibly are not part of the crime problem, and the state should stop treating them like criminals. Californians recognize that the war on marijuana is a waste of law enforcement resources and this new law acknowledges that reality."

For more information, please contact Allen St. Pierre, NORML Executive Director, at (202) 483-5500 or Paul Armentano, NORML Deputy Director, at: [paul@norml.org](mailto:paul@norml.org).



News From *your* local affiliate of the National Organization for the Reform of Marijuana Laws

## Save The Date: April 21-23 -- NORML 2011 National Conference To Convene In Denver, Colorado

**Washington, DC, USA:** The National Organization for the Reform of Marijuana Laws (NORML) will be holding its 40th annual national conference April 21 through April 23 at the [Grand Hyatt](#) Hotel in Denver, Colorado – one of America's most 'pot-friendly' cities. Please mark your calendars now to attend this important event.

"We have chosen to hold NORML's annual conference in Denver this spring to recognize the prominent role that Colorado is now playing in the movement to end marijuana prohibition and legalize the responsible use of marijuana in America, both for medical reasons and for general use," NORML Executive Director Allen St. Pierre said. "Colorado has become the center of America's

legalization fight, and we want to both encourage that movement and learn how we might more effectively export that fight to other states."

NORML invites the public to join hundreds of likeminded marijuana law reformers at the nation's only annual conference dedicated to ending cannabis prohibition.

**Please visit <http://www.norml.org> for forthcoming information regarding 2011 conference registration, speakers, and social events.**

**\* NOTE! The Willamette Valley NORML Public meeting \* Happens (most!) every 4th Sat. of the month and will be at**



**Cozmic Pizza - in Theo's Coffee House Meeting Room - at 199 W 8th Av, Eugene, Oregon \* Excepting Holidays - Nov., Dec. - when it takes place 3rd Sat.! For more info on meeting call: 541.517-0957 -or- visit: <http://w-v-norml.org/meeting.html>**

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