



## NORMLs Top Ten Stories for 2011

### #1 NORML Sues To Halt Government's Prosecution of Medical Cannabis Providers |

In October, the United States Deputy Attorney General, along with the four US Attorneys from California, announced their [intentions](#) to escalate federal efforts targeting the state's medical cannabis dispensaries and providers. In response, members of the [NORML Legal Committee](#) filed suit in November against the federal government arguing that its actions were in violation of the Ninth, Tenth, and Fourteenth Amendments of the US Constitution. Plaintiffs also argued, using the theory of judicial estoppel, that the Justice Department had previously affirmed in federal court that it would no longer use federal resources to prosecute cannabis patients or providers who are compliant with state law. NORML's lawsuit remains pending. *Read the full story at:* <http://norml.org/news/2011/11/10/federal-lawsuit-seeks-to-halt-obama-administration-s-crackdown-on-california-s-medical-cannabis-patients-and-providers>.

### #2 Members of Congress Introduce First Bill Since 1937 To Legalize Cannabis |

House lawmakers [introduced](#) legislation in Congress in June to end the federal criminalization of the personal use of marijuana. The

<continued on page 3 >

### 'False Alert' Rate For Drug Dogs Tops 80 Percent

**Sydney, Australia:** Some 80 percent of drug dog 'alerts' in New South Wales in 2011 yielded no illicit substances, according to state government statistics [published](#) this week by the *Sydney Morning Herald*.

According to the paper, in the first nine months of 2011, "14,102 searches were conducted after a dog sat next to a person, indicating they might be carrying drugs. But, in 11,248 cases, no drugs were found."

<continued on page 4 >

### Bi-Partisan Group of Governors Call on President Obama to Re-Schedule Marijuana

**Olympia, WA, USA:** A number of governors from states that have legalized the medical use of marijuana are calling on President Obama to reschedule marijuana federally, to avoid the current conflict with state and federal law.

Independent Governor Lincoln Chafee of Rhode Island, Democrat Governors Christine Gregoire of Washington, and Peter Shumlin of Vermont have petitioned the federal government to reschedule marijuana under the federal Controlled Substances Act from

<continued on page 4 >

### Hospice Health Professionals Support Legalization Of Cannabis For Therapeutic Use

**Philadelphia, PA, USA:** A majority of hospice health professionals favor allowing the legally regulated use of cannabis for terminally ill patients, according to [survey data](#) published online in the *Journal of Palliative Medicine*. Investigators at the University of Pennsylvania utilized a 16-item questionnaire to assess the knowledge, experience, and views of hospice professionals regarding the use of marijuana in terminally ill patients.

<continued on page 4 >

### New York City Finally Sees Reduction in Marijuana Arrests

**New York, NY, USA:** The shift away from arresting minor marijuana offenders in New York City, announced as a "clarification" on September 19, 2011 by New York Police Commissioner Raymond Kelly, appears to be having the desired effect. Prior to the low-level marijuana possession offenses are the number one

<continued on page 4 >



## 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

----- Making contact -----

*You can Snail Mail:*

The W-V-NORML Newsletter team by writing to -

**P.O. Box 10957  
Eugene, OR 97440**

*E-mailing:*

newsroom@willamettevalleynorml.org

or phoning: **541-517-0957**

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 **NORMLs TOP TEN STORIES FOR 2011, page 1** > bipartisan measure -- [HR 2306](#), the 'Ending Federal Marijuana Prohibition Act of 2011' -- prohibits the federal government from prosecuting adults who use or possess cannabis by removing the plant and its primary psychoactive constituent, THC, from the five schedules of the United States Controlled Substances Act of 1970. The bill awaits Congressional action. *Read the full story at:* <http://norml.org/news/2011/06/23/members-of-congress-introduce-first-federal-measure-since-1937-to-legalize-the-adult-use-of-marijuana-bipartisan-coalition-backs-the-ending-federal-marijuana-prohibition-act-of-2011>.

**#3 Gallup: Majority of Americans Support Legalizing Cannabis** | A record 50 percent of Americans now believe that marijuana ought to be legalized for adult use, according to a nationwide [Gallup Poll](#) of 1,005 adults published in October. The 2011 survey results mark the first time ever that Gallup has reported that more Americans support legalizing cannabis (50 percent) than oppose it (46 percent). *Read the full story at:* <http://norml.org/news/2011/10/19/gallup-record-percentage-of-americans-now-support-marijuana-legalization>.

**#4 Over One Million Americans Now Use Cannabis Legally Under State Law** | Between one million to one-and-a-half million US citizens are legally authorized by the laws of their state to use marijuana, according to data compiled in May by NORML from state medical marijuana registries and patient estimates. *Read the full story at:* <http://stash.norml.org/americas-one-million-legal-marijuana-users>.

**#5 Marijuana Prosecutions For 2010 Near Record High** | Police made 853,838 arrests in 2010 for marijuana-related offenses according to the Federal Bureau of Investigation's annual Uniform Crime Report, released in September. The annual arrest total is among the highest ever reported by the agency. Marijuana arrests now comprise more than one-half (52 percent) of all drug arrests in the United States. *Read the full story at:* <http://norml.org/news/2011/09/19/marijuana-prosecutions-for-2010-near-record-high>.

**#6 Largest State Doctors Association Calls For Legalizing Cannabis** | The California Medical Association in October [called for](#) the "legalization and regulation" of cannabis for adults. The association, which represents some 35,000 physicians, [recommends](#) that cannabis be taxed and regulated "in a manner similar to alcohol."

*Read the full story at:* <http://norml.org/news/2011/10/19/california-state-s-largest-doctor-s-association-calls-for-legalizing-and-regulating-cannabis>.

**#7 Connecticut Decriminalizes Cannabis Possession Offenses** | Statewide [legislation](#) took effect in July reducing the penalties for the adult possession of up to one-half ounce of marijuana from a criminal misdemeanor (formerly punishable by one year in jail and a \$1,000 fine) to a non-criminal infraction, punishable by a \$150 fine, no arrest or jail time, and no criminal record. *Read the full story at:* <http://norml.org/news/2011/07/07/connecticut-marijuana-infraction-measure-signed-into-law>.

**#8 Vaporized Cannabis Augments Analgesic Effect of Opiates in Humans** | Vaporized cannabis significantly augments the analgesic effects of opiates in patients with chronic pain, according to clinical trial [data](#) published online in the journal *Clinical Pharmacology & Therapeutics* in November. Investigators surmised that cannabis-specific interventions "may allow for opioid treatment at lower doses with fewer [patient] side effects." *Read the full story at:* <http://norml.org/news/2011/11/10/study-vaporized-cannabis-augments-the-analgesic-effects-of-opiates-in-human-subjects>.

**#9 State Governors Call on Obama Administration to Reclassify Cannabis** | In December, governors from Rhode Island, Vermont, and Washington formally requested the Obama administration to reclassify cannabis under federal law in a manner that would allow states to regulate its therapeutic use without federal interference. The administration in July had previously [rejected](#) a nine-year-old [petition](#) calling on the agency to initiate hearings to reassess the present classification of marijuana as a [schedule I](#) controlled substance without any 'accepted medical use in treatment.' *Read the full story at:* <http://norml.org/news/2011/12/08/bi-partisan-group-of-governors-call-on-president-obama-to-re-schedule-marijuana>.

**#10 Delaware Becomes 16th State To Legalize Limited Medical Use of Marijuana** | State lawmakers in May approved [legislation](#) to allow patients with a qualifying illness may legally possess up to six ounces of cannabis, provided the cannabis is obtained from a state-licensed, not-for-profit 'compassion center.' The law is anticipated to be implemented in 2012.

<continued on next page>

<continued from previous page> Read the full story at: <http://norml.org/news/2011/05/19/delaware-becomes-16th-state-to-legalize-limited-medical-use-of-marijuana>.

NORML and NORML Foundation are supported by cannabis consumers and other caring citizens. Please make an end of the year [donation](#) to help us keep going strong into 2012. [Donate](#) \$25 or more and receive copies of **both** *Emerging Clinical Applications for Cannabis and Cannabinoids* and *Medical Marijuana Law in California*. --- Thanks from

NORML's staff and nationwide chapter network! <http://norml.org/join-norml/tax-deductible-norml-foundation>

<continued from 'FALSE ALERT' RATE FOR DRUG DOGS TOPS 80 PERCENT, page 1 > Statistics for 2010 showed a similarly high false positive rate. Of the 15,779 searches conducted after police-dog identification, no drugs were found in 11,694 cases, the *Herald* reported.

The statistics were made public following a Parliamentary inquiry regarding the widespread use of drug dogs. Despite the high error rate, a spokesman for the NSW Police Minister said that the government "fully supported the use of dogs because police had found them effective."

Earlier this year, a [study](#) published in the scientific journal *Animal Cognition* reported that the performance of drug-sniffing dogs is significantly influenced by whether or not their handlers believe illicit substances are present.

In 2004, the United States Supreme Court ruled in [Illinois v. Caballes](#) that an alert from a police dog during a traffic stop provides a constitutional basis for law enforcement to search the interior of the vehicle. For more information, please contact Keith Stroup, NORML Legal Counsel, at (202) 483-5500.

<continued from BI-PARTISAN GROUP OF GOVERNORS CALL ON PRESIDENT OBAMA TO RE-SCHEDULE MARIJUANA, page 1 > Schedule I to Schedule II, which would permit the drug to be prescribed by physicians as a medicine.

"What we have here on the ground is chaos," said Governor Gregoire., adding that patients "who ... either feel like they're criminals or may be engaged in some criminal activity, and really are legitimate patients who want medical marijuana."

Connecticut Democrat Governor Daniel Malloy has said he will also be joining the group of governors petitioning the federal government.

Democrat Governor John Hickenlooper of Colorado has announced that he will be making a similar request to the Obama administration prior to January 1, 2012, as required by state law.

Rescheduling marijuana to a lower schedule under federal law would not authorize medical marijuana dispensaries, such as those that exist under state law in California, Colorado, New Mexico and Maine, and that have been authorized in a handful of additional states, but it would begin the process of making marijuana available from licensed pharmacists. For more information, please contact NORML Legal Counsel Keith Stroup at [keith@norml.org](mailto:keith@norml.org).

<continued from HOSPICE HEALTH PROFESSIONALS SUPPORT LEGALIZATION OF CANNABIS FOR THERAPEUTIC USE, page 1 > Authors concluded, "The study results revealed that, like the general public, hospice health care providers are generally in favor of legalization of marijuana and, if legalized, would support its use in symptom management for their terminally ill patients."

Various [health professional organizations](#), including the American Nurses Association and the American Public Health Association, have enacted resolutions in support of allowing patients the legal alternative to use cannabis therapy.

For more information, please contact Paul Armentano, NORML Deputy Director, at: [paul@norml.org](mailto:paul@norml.org). Full text of the study, "Assessment of hospice health professional knowledge, views, and experience with medical marijuana," appears in the *Journal of Palliative Medicine*.

<continued from NEW YORK CITY FINALLY SEES REDUCTION IN MARIJUANA ARRESTS, page 1 > announcement, city police were regularly arresting those with small amounts of marijuana in their possession, although state law defines the private possession of less than an ounce of marijuana is a \$100 civil fine. But smoking in public or possessing it publicly remains a misdemeanor with a possible 3 months in jail and a \$500 fine.

Figures released by the New York Division of Criminal Justice Services show that in 2010, the New York City Police Department arrested 50,383 people for low-level marijuana offenses. Arrests for

<continued on next page>

<continued from previous page> arrest in New York City, making up 15 percent of all arrests. On average, nearly 140 people are arrested every day for marijuana possession in NYC, making the Big Apple the "Marijuana Arrest Capital of the World."

Arrests for low-level marijuana possession fell 13% in the city in the weeks after the police commissioner cautioned officers not to bust people for small amounts of the drug found in pockets or bags, according to department data released Wednesday. Department figures show 1,190 fewer



arrests were made in the nine weeks since the order, compared with the same period a year earlier.

More than 85 percent of those arrested for marijuana in New York City

are blacks and Latinos in the poorest neighborhoods where the highest rates of stop-and-frisk occur, despite usage rates among the three groups being essentially the same.

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

### **Non-Psychotropic Cannabinoid Is "Safe," "Well Tolerated" In Humans, Study Says**

**"CBD is non-toxic ... and does not alter psychomotor or psychological functions"**

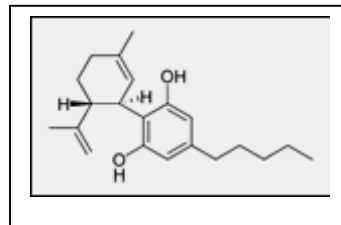
**Sao Paulo, Brazil:** The administration of the non-psychoactive cannabis plant constituent [cannabidiol](#) (CBD) is "non-toxic" to healthy cells and is "well tolerated" in humans, according to [review data](#) published online in the scientific journal *Current Drug Safety*.

Investigators at the University of Sao Paulo, Clinical Hospital reviewed over 130 papers assessing the impact of CBD in humans and animals. Studies describing the effects of multiple cannabinoids or CBD extracts were excluded from the analysis.

Authors reported: "Several studies suggest that CBD is well tolerated and safe in humans at high doses and with chronic use. ... [S]tudies suggest that CBD is non-toxic in non-transformed cells and does not induce changes on food intake, does not induce catalepsy [muscular rigidity], does not affect physiological parameters (heart rate, blood pressure and body temperature), does not affect gastrointestinal transit and does not alter psychomotor or psychological functions."

They concluded, "Based on recent advances in cannabinoid administration in humans, controlled CBD may be safe in humans and animals. However, further studies are needed to clarify these reported *in vitro* and *in vivo* side effects."

Separate investigations of CBD have documented the cannabinoid to possess [a variety of therapeutic properties](#),



including anti-inflammatory, anti-diabetic, anti-epileptic, anti-cancer, and bone-stimulating properties. In recent years, patients in states that allow for the use of cannabis therapy, particularly California, have [expressed an interest](#) in plant [strains](#) that contain uniquely high percentages of the compound.

Cannabidiol is presently classified under federal law as a [schedule I](#) prohibited substance. Such substances are required by law to possess "a high potential for abuse," "a lack of accepted safety ... under medical supervision," and "no currently accepted medical use in treatment in the United States."

For more information, please contact Paul Armentano, NORML Deputy Director, at: [paul@norml.org](mailto:paul@norml.org). Full text of the study, "Safety and Side Effects of Cannabidiol, a Cannabis Sativa Constituent," appears in *Current Drug Safety*.

### **Colorado: Justice Department Threatens To Target State-Licensed Cannabis Facilities**

**Denver, CO, USA:** United States Justice Department officials are planning to target the operators of several of the state's licensed cannabis facilities, according to a CBS Denver News [report](#) broadcast last week.

According to the report, Justice Department officials will be targeting facilities alleged to be located within 1,000 feet of schools, regardless of whether the operations are properly licensed by the state, which does not mandate such zoning restrictions.

"Dispensaries that receive the letters will be given 45 days to shut down or move operations. If they don't comply, they will be shut down by the US attorney in Colorado."

Since 2010, state officials have [explicitly licensed](#)

<continued on next page>

<continued from previous page> cultivators and dispensers of cannabis for therapeutic purposes. At least [700](#) state-licensed cannabis dispensaries are presently operating in the state.

The federal threat appears to be inconsistent with statements made by US Attorney General Eric Holder before Congress just one week earlier when he [told](#) House Rep. Jared Polis (D-CO) that it "would not be a priority" for federal officials to take actions against "people (who) are acting in conformity with the (state's) law."

In October, United States Deputy Attorney General James Cole, along with the four US Attorneys from California, announced their [intentions](#) to escalate federal efforts targeting the state's medical cannabis dispensaries and providers. Since that time, Justice Department officials have also spearheaded separate actions targeting medical cannabis operations in Montana and [Washington](#).

For more information, please contact Allen St. Pierre, NORML Executive Director, or Keith Stroup, NORML Legal Counsel, at (202) 483-5500.

## California: State Lawmaker Meets With US Attorney Regarding Federal Crackdown On Cannabis Providers

**San Francisco, CA, USA:** California Assemblyman Tom Ammiano [met](#) last week with Melinda Haag, US Attorney for Northern California, to voice his concern over the Justice Department's recent [crackdown](#) on the state's medical cannabis providers.

Ammiano said that the meeting with Haag -- who describes cannabis dispensaries as "magnet(s) for crime" and alleges that they "send the wrong message to those in our society who are the most impressionable" -- did "not result in any (policy) changes."

According to a [report](#) in the *San Francisco Bay Guardian*, Haag offered no specifics at the meeting regarding what actions state lawmakers could take to regulate dispensaries in a manner that would not instigate federal intervention or prosecution.

In 2009, Ammiano sponsored legislation to legalize and regulate the commercial production and sale of cannabis for adults age 21 or over. State lawmakers are believed to be considering [legislation](#) in 2012 that would seek to more strictly regulate the state's medical cannabis industry.

Last month, members of the [NORML Legal Committee](#), led by Matt Kumin and David Michael

from San Francisco and Alan Silber from Roseland, NJ, [filed suit](#) against the federal government in an [effort](#) to halt the Obama administration's ongoing crackdown on California's medical cannabis producers and providers.

For more information, please contact contact Allen St. Pierre, NORML Executive Director, or Keith Stroup, NORML Legal Counsel, at (202) 483-5500 or visit: <http://www.canorml.org>.

## Study: Inhaled Cannabis Modulates Appetite Hormones In HIV Patients

**San Diego, CA, USA:** Cannabis inhalation is associated with increased levels of appetite hormones in the blood of subjects with HIV infection, according to clinical trial [data](#) published online in the scientific



journal *Brain Research*.

Investigators at the University of California, San Diego and the [Center for Medicinal Cannabis Research](#) assessed the effects of inhaled cannabis on the appetite hormones ghrelin, leptin and peptide YY (PYY), as well as insulin, in adult subjects with HIV.

Insulin, ghrelin, PYY, and leptin are hormones individually modulated in response to food intake and energy homeostasis.

Researchers reported: "Compared to placebo, cannabis administration was associated with significant increases in plasma levels of ghrelin and leptin, and decreases in PYY, but did not significantly influence insulin levels. ...

... Cannabis-related changes in these hormones had a magnitude similar to what has been observed with food intake over the course of a day in normal volunteers, suggesting physiological relevance."

They concluded, "These findings support further evaluations of interventions directed at manipulating the [endocannabinoid system](#) for the treatment of eating disorders and obesity."

For more information, please contact Paul Armentano, NORML Deputy Director, at: [paul@norml.org](mailto:paul@norml.org). Full text of the study, "A pilot study of the effects of cannabis on appetite hormones in HIV-infected adult men," appears in *Brain Research*.

<continued on next page>

## House Lawmakers Vote In Favor Of Federal Legislation Outlawing So-Called 'Synthetic Cannabis'

Washington, DC, USA: Members of the US Congress, House of Representatives [voted](#) 317 to 98 last week in support of HR 1254, the [Synthetic Drug Control Act](#). The act criminalizes the possession or use of "any substance that is a cannabinoid receptor type 1 agonist" by classifying all such substances as Schedule I prohibited drugs under federal law "unless [the substance is] specifically exempted or ... listed in another schedule."

If passed, the measure would prohibit under federal law the possession and sale of chemical agents contained in so-called 'fake' herbal marijuana products, commonly sold over-the-counter under the brand names 'K2' and 'Spice.'

The measure now awaits action in the Senate.

Senate companion legislation, S. 605, also remains pending.

In March, the US Drug Enforcement Administration (DEA) [exercised](#) its 'emergency scheduling authority' to criminally prohibit the possession and sale of several of the synthetic cannabinoids contained in over-the-counter products such as Spice.

Commenting on the Congressional vote, NORML Deputy Director Paul Armentano said, "The growing popularity of these synthetic cannabinoid products is a predictable outgrowth of criminal marijuana prohibition. As prohibition is apt to do, it has driven the production of a commodity into the hands of unregulated, unknown dealers, driven up the potency of the commodity, and in doing so created a scenario where the consumer is faced with a potentially greater health risks than they would be had they simply had the legal choice to use the product they actually desired, in this case cannabis."

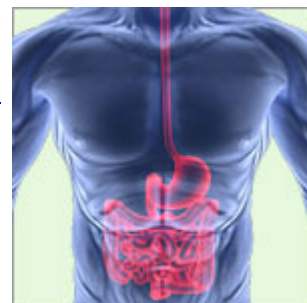
He added, "No doubt the consumption of some of these unregulated products may pose risks to the consumer. However, it is hard to fathom that these potential risks will be lessened by further driving the products underground as opposed to regulating thereby allowing for the opportunity for quality control, laboratory testing, labeling, and human trials."

For more information, please contact Paul Armentano, NORML Deputy Director, at: [paul@norml.org](mailto:paul@norml.org) or Keith Stroup, NORML Legal Counsel, at (202) 483-5500.

## Cannabis Beneficial To Patients With Inflammatory Bowel Disease

*"Inhaled cannabis improves quality of life measurements, disease activity index, and causes weight gain"*

Tel Aviv, Israel: The inhalation of cannabis increases quality of life, mitigates disease activity, and promotes weight gain in subjects with inflammatory bowel disease (IBD), according to [clinical trial data](#) published online in the scientific journal *Digestion*.



Investigators at the Chaim Sheba Medical Center in Tel Aviv, Israel assessed the efficacy of inhaled prescription cannabis in patients with long-standing IBD, such as Crohn's disease.

Researchers reported: "After three months' treatment, patients reported improvement in general health perception, social functioning, ability to work, physical pain and depression. A schematic scale of health perception showed an improved score. ... Patients had ... weight gain ... during treatment and an average rise in BMI (body mass index)."

They concluded, "Three months' treatment with inhaled cannabis improves quality of life measurements, disease activity index, and causes weight gain and rise in BMI in long-standing IBD patients." An estimated 6,000 Israelis [are supplied](#) with locally grown cannabis for therapeutic purposes as part of a limited government program.

[Survey data](#) published in August in the *European Journal of Gastroenterology and Hepatology* [reported](#) that an estimated one-third of patients with colitis and one-half of subjects with Crohn's acknowledge having used cannabis to [mitigate their disease symptoms](#).

Most recently, clinical trial data published in September in the *Journal of the Israeli Medical Association* reported that the use of cannabis is associated with a reduction in Crohn's disease activity and disease-related surgeries.

Researchers at the Meir Medical Center in Israel are [presently evaluating](#) the safety and efficacy of inhaled cannabis for patients with Crohn's and Ulcerative Colitis in a double-blind, placebo-

<continued on next page>



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

<continued from previous page> controlled trial, according to a summary of the US federal government website [clinicaltrials.gov](http://clinicaltrials.gov). For more information, please contact Paul Armentano, NORML Deputy Director, at [paul@norml.org](mailto:paul@norml.org). Full text of the study, "Impact of Cannabis Treatment on the Quality of Life, Weight and Clinical Disease Activity in Inflammatory Bowel Disease Patients: A Pilot Prospective Study," appears in *Digestion*.

### Prescription Drug Efavirenz Yields False Positive Test Results For THC, Study Says

**Pretoria, South Africa:** Prescription doses of the antiretroviral prescription drug efavirenz (EFV) cross-reacts in urine immunoassay tests for the carboxy THC metabolite, according to [clinical data](#) published online in the journal *Annals of Clinical Biochemistry*.

Investigators at the University of Pretoria in South Africa analyzed random urine samples from 30 patients on EFV therapy for THC metabolites by two near-testing devices (THC One Step Marijuana and Rapid Response(®) Drugs of Abuse Test Strips) and two automated immunoassays (Roche Diagnostics Cannabinoids II and Beckman Coulter SYNCHRON(®) Systems THC2). THC confirmatory testing was performed by gas chromatography-mass spectrometry (GC-MS).

Authors reported: "GC-MS failed to detect THC metabolites in any of the samples, as did three of the four immunoassays. However, the Rapid Response(®) test strips yielded positive results in 28 out of 30 samples."

Separate studies have [previously documented](#) that efavirenz may yield so-called 'false positive' test results for the carboxy THC metabolite on various types of presumptive immunoassay urine tests. For more information, please contact Paul Armentano, NORML Deputy Director, at: [paul@norml.org](mailto:paul@norml.org). Full text of the study, "Efavirenz interference in urine screening immunoassays for tetrahydrocannabinol," appears in *Annals of Clinical Biochemistry*.

\* **NOTE!** The Willamette Valley NORML Member meeting happens **every 2nd Sat. of the month** and will be at The Voter Power Office. For more info on meeting visit: <http://w-v-norml.org/Members/meeting.html>



The Willamette Valley NORML Public meeting happens (most!) **every 4th Sat. of the month**

(Excepting Holidays - Nov., Dec. - when it takes place 3rd Sat.!)

and will also be at The Voter Power Office at **687 River Av, Eugene, Oregon** \* For more info on meeting call: **541.517-0957** -or- visit: <http://w-v-norml.org/meeting.html>

Toasted h'ERB'S Kitchen,  
1210 Willamette St, Eugene  
*It's One Hell of A Joint!*  
call: **541.343-2845** -or- visit:



<http://toastedherbs.com/> - and see!