

# ANNUAL REPORT

International Academy on the Science and  
Impact of Cannabis  
2021

# IASIC

INTERNATIONAL ACADEMY ON THE SCIENCE AND IMPACT OF CANNABIS

*Doctors Educating on Marijuana*



# THANK YOU

The IASIC board of directors would like to thank our Expert Physician Council, Expert Affiliate Council and Donors for your support in creating IASIC and contributing to a successful first year. We could not have achieved what we did without you. A heartfelt thank you to all of you as we reflect on 2021 and share some of our accomplishments.

We are doctors educating on marijuana. We counter the pervasive misconception of the safety of marijuana with international experts who provide science, data, and clinical expertise. This non-partisan and non-political group is developed, organized, and guided by doctors. We hope science guides policies that protect the public and create informed decision-makers.

- Eric Voth, MD, President
- Ken Finn, MD, Vice President
- Roneet Lev, MD, Vice President
- Catherine Antley, MD, Treasurer
- Libby Stuyt, MD, Secretary



From top left: Eric Voth, Ken Finn, Roneet Lev, Catherine Antley, Libby Stuyt

# ADMINISTRATIVE

The IASIC concept began in late 2020 with weekly conversation about mission, vision, name of organization, and structure. By March 2021 we launched our website and shortly after hired JulNet as our organization administrator. We realized that there are many groups across the country that are seeking medical and physician expertise on the harms of marijuana. We wanted to be of service, sharing our medical and scientific expertise and education with those who hungered for these facts. Contrary to the common talking point of “we do not have enough research,” in fact we have more than enough research today to warn about the harms of cannabis.

There is new research published on a regular basis sounding the alarms on mental health and physical risk of cannabis. Everyday emergency department across America are treating marijuana poisonings.

- Started the organization including 501c3 status
- Developed the Board of Directors
- Developed the Expert Physician and Expert Affiliate councils
- Launch [IASIC website](#)
- Hired [JulNet](#) for organization administration



# MEDIA ENGAGEMENTS

The IASIC board of directors has engaged in several media events over the year, starting with a press conference that reached over 1,000 views. The highlight event has been our Doctors Warn advertisement that was published in the Wall Street Journal reaching an international audience.

- [Press conference on the launch of IASIC](#). May, 2021.
- [Article - International Academy on the Science and Impact of Cannabis](#), July 2021, East County Magazine.
- [Dr. Catherine Antley discussed cannabis with Anne Hassel, a former budtender](#) May, 2021 [The Effects of Legal Marijuana on the Health Care System](#) July 23, 2021
- [Dr. Catherine Antley discussed the Vermont Medical Society's resolution and the doctors' suggested warning labels on CCTV](#). December 2021.
- [Dr. Catherine Antley and other Vermont physicians assisted with a video explaining the Vermont Medical Society's proposed warnings](#).
- [Dr. Eric Voth published an opinion piece in The Wall Street Journal: What Proponents of Legal Marijuana Forget to Mention](#) August 2021.
- [Dr. Lev spoke to KOGO News on the Myths of Marijuana](#), August 2021.
- [Dr. Lev comments on marijuana legalization and COVID policies during the pandemic](#) in December 2020.
- [Dr. Lev warns on marijuana drug interactions](#) in September 2021.
- [Dr. Finn was interviewed in multiple media outlooks across the world including Australia on Active Intelligence, Asia Pacific Today, Ireland, Russia, Alabama, Virginia, Massachusetts, Iowa, and South Dakota](#).
- [Dr. Libby Stuyt wrote an Op-Ed featured on MedPage Today on Marijuana and Suicide](#). ASAM Weekly noted that this was one of the most read articles in 2021.
- [Doctor's Warn Ad](#). The IASIC advertisement was updated from the 10/6/2020 Vermont Doctor's Letter authored by Dr. David Rettew and Dr. Catherine Antley and signed by leading Vermont Doctors.
- [Wall Street Journal: Saturday/Sunday November 6-7, 2021 & November 13,14, 2021](#)
- [New York Times: Sunday December 19, 2021](#)

PAID ADVERTISEMENT

*Doctors Warn*

# Cannabis Can Cause Serious Health Hazards

IASIC, the International Academy on the Science and Impact of Cannabis, is a medical organization of doctors who educate on the impacts of cannabis, based on the scientific and medical literature. IASIC is a non-partisan and non-political group created to facilitate informed decisions when considering health and cannabis policy.

Thousands of peer-reviewed medical articles have been published on the harms of cannabis and marijuana: Emergency Department (ED) Visits, Psychosis, Suicide, Brain Development, Neonatal Exposure, Opioid Use, Traffic Fatalities, High Potency Use, Problematic Use and Cannabis Hyperemesis Syndrome.

While we support FDA-approved cannabis-based products that have met the rigor of scientific study, it is our conclusion, based on review of the scientific evidence, that the negative impacts of cannabis strain our health care and addiction treatment resources to an extent that far surpasses the perceived benefits.

Calling attention to the growing science on the risks of cannabis, we see an urgent need for smart public health policies that follow the science, prevent addiction, and decrease mental illness, including psychosis, depression, and suicide.

IASIC, The International Association on Science and Impact of Cannabis wants the public and our leaders to be informed decision makers.

# IASIC



Scan to read the full article  
with citations or visit  
[www.iasic1.org/doctors-warn-cannabis-can-cause-serious-health-hazards/](http://www.iasic1.org/doctors-warn-cannabis-can-cause-serious-health-hazards/)  
**www.IASIC1.org**

Please make your donations to support this public health non profit organization at [www.IASIC1.org/donate](http://www.IASIC1.org/donate)

**Paid for by IASIC**

# EDUCATION

Education is a primary goal for IASIC. We want to make sure peer reviewed medical literature is translated to language that anyone can understand. If you go to the National Library of Medicine and enter “cannabis” you will have over 27,000 hits. We created simple translation of key articles and arranged them by category in our IASIC library. Through the year the library has undergone several updates attempting to keep up with the growing body of literature.

In addition, our IASIC experts collectively have spoken at over 100 different webinars or meetings across the country in 2021.

In October 2021 four of the IASIC board members led a panel with the [ASAP New York](#) Statewide Prevention Conference titled “The Legalization of Marijuana: Preventing Unintentional Consequences.”

- Creation of [IASIC medical library](#) for public education
- IASIC [Free Speaker Series](#)
- IASIC promoted in [Western States Marijuana Summit](#), November 2021
- Legislative education for
  - South Dakota
    - IASIC board members assisted with consumer safety education on medical marijuana
  - Alabama
    - Dr. Ken Finn assisted in education on cannabis safety.
  - Colorado
    - Dr. Ken Finn, Dr. Libby Stuyt, Dr. Catherine Antley, Dr. Karen Randall, and Dr. Brad Roberts testified for the Colorado House Bill on THC limits.
  - Massachusetts
    - Dr. Ken Finn and Dr. Catherine Antley testified for the Massachusetts House Bill on THC limits.
  - New Hampshire
    - Dr. Libby Stuyt, Dr. Catherine Antley, Dr. Christine Miller and Dr. Karen Randall testified in New Hampshire on January 27, 2021.
  - Vermont
    - Dr. Libby Stuyt and Dr. Catherine Antley testified to the Vermont Cannabis Control Board on THC limits

# IASIC SPEAKER'S SERIES

The free IASIC speakers' series included world-renowned leaders from different specialties. There are over 40 lectures available with information about cannabis from the head to the eye and to the genes. Lectures are available on through [the IASIC website](http://theIASICwebsite).



# RESEARCH

IASIC experts have been involved in various research projects. Below are just a few of the research contributions that IASIC physicians and scientists have published in 2021.

- Dr. Stuart Reese has been furiously analyzing massive data set showing the relationships between cannabis and gene toxicity, cancer, and autism. He published his work in the prestigious journal [Nature](#) this year.
- Dr. Lev and Joe Eberstein distributed 10,000 Marijuana Drug Info Cards to 17 pharmacies and noted that over 90% of those who answered the survey believed that drug interaction information was important.
- Dr. Lev is working with the San Diego Medical Examiner in research sponsored by the National Marijuana Initiative on THC-associated deaths.
- Dr. Christine Miller authored [“The Bradford Hill Analysis of Causation Applied to Cannabis Use and the Development of Chronic Psychotic Disorders”](#), with reviews and contributions from members of the IASIC Expert Physician and Affiliates Council. The abundant, well-conducted research on cannabis-induced psychosis made it clear the time was right for IASIC to feature this analysis.
- Dr. Libby Stuyt researched and wrote [“High Potency THC and Justice-Involved Individuals with Mental Illness The Colorado Task Force Concerning the Treatment of Individuals with Mental Health Disorders in the Criminal and Juvenile Justice System \(MHDCJS\) White Paper.”](#)
- Dr. Hjorthoj and others published groundbreaking [research on cannabis use and schizophrenia](#) in a study of over 7 million people in Denmark. Having been diagnosed with a cannabis use disorder increased the risk of subsequently developing schizophrenia by 4-fold. As the rate of cannabis use increased over time, the fraction of the schizophrenia attributable to cannabis use increased in a commensurate manner.
- San Diego IASIC members in collaboration with the Center for Community Research published the annual [San Diego Marijuana Initiative Report](#).

## Be in the know!

### Marijuana may cause drug interactions with your medications

Chemicals found in marijuana such as THC and CBD may interact with medications, with potential serious side effects.

#### Common drugs that have interactions include:

- Sedatives
- Anti-Anxiety medications
- Anti-Depressant medications
- Pain medications
- Seizure medications
- Blood Thinners

It is always recommended to inform your Doctor or health care provider of any substances you may be taking to avoid harmful drug interactions.







## MEDICAL ADVOCACY

As physicians and researchers, the IASIC team has worked within the house of medicine to advocate for smart marijuana policies.

- Dr. Roneet Lev and Dr. Gregory Shangold succeed to write and pass a resolution with the American College of Emergency Physicians to educate on marijuana harm.
- Dr. Catherine Antley and Dr. Linda Zamvil, with the Vermont Psychiatric Association and Vermont Medical Society, were successful in passing a Vermont Medical Society Resolution on recommended cannabis health warnings and consumer protection policies, including THC concentration limits.
- Dr. Robert Page published the American Heart Association landmark white paper on medical marijuana, published August 2020.
- These position statements can be found in the IASIC library under “Medical Position Statements.”
  - American College of Emergency Physician resolution on cannabis harms
  - Vermont Medical Society Resolution on cannabis advertisement and warning labels
  - Advisory and education to South Dakota Medical Marijuana policies
  - American Heart Association White Paper
  - International Association for the Study of Pain Position Statement

# COLLABORATION

IASIC wants to be of service. We have assisted many coalitions and organizations with links to our IASIC library, lectures, and material review. We are here for you.

We are honored to collaborate with the [National Marijuana Initiative](#), NMI. The IASIC library is a resource for NMI.

IASIC has held talks with the [United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime](#), Drug Research Section education on marijuana adverse effects, public health warnings, and best practice data tracking.

We are proud to contribute to the Mar-Anon brochure on [Cannabis Hyperemesis Syndrome](#). CHS is a terrible affliction to those who chronically use cannabis and develop severe abdominal pain and vomiting cured by cannabis cessation. Patients are generally not aware of the role cannabis is playing in their condition and education is an important part of patient care and treatment for the disorder.

IASIC contributed to the Mar-Anon brochure on [Cannabis Induced Psychosis](#).

San Diego IASIC members published the [San Diego County Marijuana Prevention Initiative 2021 Report](#).



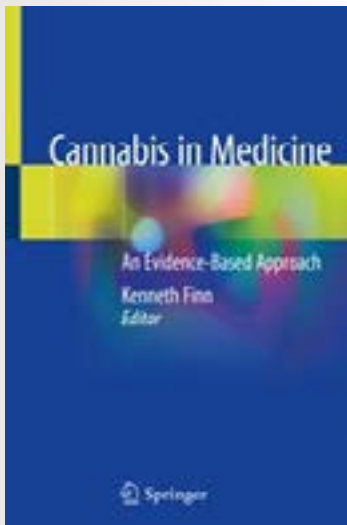
# UNODC

United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime

# TEXT AND CONVERSATION

IASIC is proud to promote the first medical textbook on marijuana edited by Dr. Ken Finn: Cannabis in Medicine: An Evidence Based Approach. Many of the IASIC experts have published chapters in this textbook.

IASIC is also proud to promote High Truth on Drugs and Addiction, hosted by Dr. Roneet Lev. Join her along with many IASIC experts in conversations. You can find the podcast on any of your favorite podcast platforms. Subscribe to the High Truths YouTube Channel for Season 2 episodes.



“THE EDITOR OF THIS VOLUME, KENNETH FINN, MD... IS TO BE COMMENDED FOR ENCOURAGING INDIVIDUAL CHAPTER AUTHORS TO DEVELOP ENCYCLOPEDIA BIBLIOGRAPHIES. THE BOOK CAN THUS SERVE AS A RESOURCE FOR PRACTITIONERS WISHING TO DELVE INTO A VAST AND GROWING LITERATURE THAT CONTINUES TO OFFER LITTLE THAT IS CONCLUSIVE.”

- J. MICHAEL BOSTWICK  
MISSOURI MEDICINE  
SEPTEMBER 2020



“DR. LEV IS A TRUE LEADER AND INCREDIBLE EFFECTIVE PRESENTER THAT PREVENTION COALITIONS ACROSS THE COUNTRY HAVE COME TO TRUST. SHE BRINGS DATA, CLINICAL EXPERIENCE AND PASSION TO OUR FIELD.”

- SUE THAU, PUBLIC  
HEALTH POLICY  
CONSULTANT, CADCA