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The National Organization for the Reform of Marijuana Laws

# NORML BLOG



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### [Reuters: Pot Kills Cancer But Don't Even Think About Using It!](#)

August 18th, 2009 By: Paul Armentano, NORML Deputy Director  
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UPDATE!!! UPDATE!!!

**The MSM may be starting to pay attention. I just got off the phone with CBS News radio, who will be covering this story imminently.**

It was just [yesterday](#) that I was lamenting about the mainstream media's failure to report on the [anti-cancer properties of cannabis](#). And then along comes *Reuters* with this:

#### [Cannabis chemicals may help fight prostate cancer](#)

via *Reuters News Wire*

**Chemicals in cannabis have been found to stop prostate cancer cells from growing in the laboratory**, suggesting that cannabis-based medicines could one day help fight the disease, scientists said Wednesday.

After working initially with human cancer cell lines, Ines Diaz-Laviada and colleagues from the University of Alcalá in Madrid also tested one compound on mice and discovered it **produced a significant reduction in tumor growth**.

Their research, published in the *British Journal of Cancer*, underlines the growing interest in the medical use of active chemicals called cannabinoids, which are found in marijuana.

### Daily Audio Stash

The Growing Truth About Cannabis

21 Aug 2009 16:20:00

Steve Bloom on Hempfest/Holden controversy; Miller, Goldstein, & Wolski on court-gagged MS patient John Wilson's trial; music by Bone

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### Recently Written

- [Reuters: Pot Kills Cancer But Don't](#)

Experts, however, stressed that the research was still exploratory and **many more years of testing would be needed** to work out how to apply the findings to the treatment of cancer in humans.

“This is interesting research which opens a new avenue to explore potential drug targets but it is at a very early stage,” said Lesley Walker, director of cancer information at Cancer Research UK, which owns the journal.

**“It absolutely isn’t the case that men might be able to fight prostate cancer by smoking cannabis,”** she added.

Well, well, well, leave it to the MSM to misrepresent the facts and miss the real story. First, the chemicals assessed in this study, [R\(+\)-Methanandamide and JWH-015](#), are neither “cannabinoids” nor are they “chemicals in cannabis.” Rather, **they are synthetic, selective CB2 receptor agonists**. In short, they are chemicals created in a lab to mimic certain elements in marijuana, and to bind to specifically to those cannabinoid receptors that are *not* located in the brain. After all, we can’t possibly have the terminally ill feeling ‘better’, now can we?

Second, US federal **researchers have known for some 35 years** that the naturally occurring chemicals in cannabis — not just synthesized agonists — can halt the proliferation of multiple types of cancer, including including [brain cancer](#), [prostate cancer](#), [breast cancer](#), [lung cancer](#), [skin cancer](#), and [pancreatic cancer](#). We even know how.

- [Drug Law Blog](#)
- [Drug War Rant](#)
- [Ed Rosenthal’s Blog](#)
- [Hit & Run](#)
- [Huffington Post](#)
- [Lew Rockwell](#)
- [Stop the Drug War](#)
- [Talk Left](#)
- [The Agitator](#)

### **[Cannabinoids: potential anticancer agents](#)**

via *Nature Reviews Cancer* (2003)

Cannabinoids are usually well tolerated, and **do not produce the generalized toxic effects** of conventional chemotherapies. ... Cannabinoids **inhibit tumor growth** in laboratory animals. They do so by modulating key cell-signaling pathways, **thereby inducing direct growth arrest and death of tumor cells**, as well as by inhibiting tumor angiogenesis and metastasis. Cannabinoids are selective anti-tumor compounds, **as they can kill tumor cells without affecting their non-transformed counterparts**.

Of course, the real question — conveniently ignored by *Reuters* and the rest of the MSM — is this: **Why, after three decades and dozens of preclinical trials documenting cannabis’ potent anti-cancer abilities, are “many more years of testing” necessary?** Last I checked, *humans* die en masse from cancer, not rats! Yet for some 35 years scientists have been content to replicate these cancer-killer findings in animals and in petri dishes, all the while warning, “It absolutely isn’t the case that men might be able to fight prostate cancer by smoking cannabis.”

Well why the hell not? Not only can cannabis alleviate cancer patients’ [nausea](#) and [pain](#), [elevate their mood](#), and [increase their appetite](#), but also — as [dozens](#) of preclinical trials over the past three decades consistently demonstrate — marijuana may help to alleviate the very disease that’s ravaging their bodies. Of course, rather than put this theory to the test, investigators for more than three decades **have been willing to let people with a terminal illness die** while they piddle around with their petri dishes. And to date, not one reporter from the mainstream media has ever had the guts to ask them why.

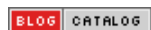
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[Even Think About Using It!](#)

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## 93 Responses to “Reuters: Pot Kills Cancer But Don’t Even Think About Using It!”

1. *Jim K* Says:

[August 18th, 2009 at 11:40 pm](#)

Quote: “And to date, not one reporter from the mainstream media has ever had the guts to ask them why.”

hmmm....maybe tobacco and alcohol companies paying them not to.

2. [Reuters: Pot Kills Cancer But Don’t Even Think About Using It! | We420.com](#) Says:

[August 19th, 2009 at 12:01 am](#)

[...] NORML Blog [...]

3. [just legalize it](#) Says:

[August 19th, 2009 at 12:03 am](#)

yea? and what else is new? im lovin it! now we just need to get the MSM to report it..... its sad that when arguing with prohibitionists, they wont believe any scientific studies at all mainly because they dont hear about them from the most trustworthy people in the entire world.... of course im talking about the MSM and our wonderful trustworthy government..... please... i, along with a quickly growing number of americans(and the world), dont believe a thing that spews out of the government! WE SHOULD ALL DEMAND THAT CONGRESS BE SUBJECTED TO MONTHLY DRUG TESTS! think of what we will find..... think of how quickly their views on the drug war will change.... of course there are ways around a simple piss test so at least the first one should be a hair follicle test..... im sure most americans will not mind tax dollars going towards making sure our government is (somewhat) honest.

4. *R.O.E.* Says:

[August 19th, 2009 at 12:07 am](#)

GAWD!!! Im gonna pull my freaking hair out!!!

My father died 5 years ago due to lung cancer...thats why I got into this fight. I watched this man, this GOOD man die terribly from this disease,If cannabis could or could not have cured him is of question. What is not of question is what these freakin pharma drugs did to him!! In the end he was STAVING TO DEATH!! He couldnt eat or keep PILLS down!!

His heart finally gave out!! Why would this heartless government keep cannabis from him or the millions that die like this!?!?!?

Once again I say..could cannabis cured him? That remains the question. I do know this..It would have made him more comfortable and let him EAT. Am I angry? YOU BET! My grandmother died the week before from cancer. What if I get cancer? Will they throw me in jail for looking for a way to survive? Force me to DIE?

Im in this fight to the very end, I will fight against ANYONE that gets in my way. All you heartless bastards that refuse to try something different can GO TO HELL!

5. *Adam* Says:

[August 19th, 2009 at 1:08 am](#)

I love how the goverment won’t let us use a natural substance to prevent cancer and yeild tumors, but okays having another life sucked out of your body and dumped in the trash.(abortion). NORML, keep fightin the good fight....

6. *Bill* Says:

[August 19th, 2009 at 1:13 am](#)

Last night on NightLine news, Lisa Ling did a report from Cali. She did a good job on the report for the most part. Perhaps someone (NORML) 😊 might suggest to her that she pose that question to said parties... she's got some balls...

7. [Reuters: Pot Kills Cancer But Don't Even Think About Using It! / Marijuana Journal](#) Says:

[August 19th, 2009 at 1:25 am](#)

[...] here: Reuters: Pot Kills Cancer But Don't Even Think About Using It! Share and [...]

8. *Trey Haltom* Says:

[August 19th, 2009 at 1:39 am](#)

What's it gonna' take to open these closed minds and hardened hearts. Anti-drug zealots make me sick.

9. *Preston* Says:

[August 19th, 2009 at 2:58 am](#)

shit like this frustrates the hell out of me

10. *Steve* Says:

[August 19th, 2009 at 3:05 am](#)

Hi,

I'm a dialysis patient and am wondering why I never hear anything about kidney failure/dialysis being one of the ailments that "pot cures"?? After being on a dialysis machine for 3-4 hours you get a "nauseating feeling"!! Why can't dialysis patients get medical marijuana, or medical cannabis cards? I also have been hearing how cannabis helps with your immune system - well I'm also on the kidney transplant list - what effect would cannabis have on a transplant????

11. *ChronJohn* Says:

[August 19th, 2009 at 3:22 am](#)

tellin it like it is. I've been emailing and writing to various MSM outlets like newsweek, cnn, msn, time, and washington post over the years asking them to do a real in-depth story about the anti-cancer properties of cannabis and haven't had a satisfactory response or article or anything no matter how much evidence I give them (I practically write the article for them in my messages). They're just too controlled by their government, their BigPharma and Big Business sponsors, and their brainwashed minds to see through the haze (no pun intended) that is the prohibitionist mindset and realize how much of a miracle plant cannabis really is. I really honestly think with all my heart that if fully embraced by the world this plant could do more good than just about anything else on this planet.

12. *One day it will be legal* Says:

[August 19th, 2009 at 5:52 am](#)

Why dont the above mentioned people causing roadblocks get out of the way??? In my opinion it is a combination of selling out to those who profit from its suppression (Pharmaceutical Companies) and fear of that their job would be in jeopardy.

THEY SHOULD BE THE LAST ONES TO GET THE DRUG WHEN COMING DOWN WTH CANCER-

God knows they will want it and need it then. PRICELESS!!!!

13. *Phil* Says:

[August 19th, 2009 at 6:34 am](#)

Thast the stuff supposedly used in the herbal incense 'Spice' thats getting banned around the world.

14. *Devon Lackey* Says:

[August 19th, 2009 at 6:39 am](#)

It's truly the forbidden fruit.

15. *bob* Says:

[August 19th, 2009 at 6:46 am](#)

maybe we need to call a town hall meeting with the media. When you light a candle you do not put it under a bushrl.A city set on a hill cannot be hid.OK calling all canaboloids,don't be afraid to say I want to have prohobition on cancer. Sorry about this rant.

16. *Price* Says:

[August 19th, 2009 at 6:53 am](#)

Have you ever seen Chris Rock's video about curing Polio? I know it sounds terribly cynical but do you think the pharms want to cure cancer or treat it?

17. *DJ* Says:

[August 19th, 2009 at 8:10 am](#)

Wow, are we ever going to look dumb. 100 years from now, the history books are going to look back at the prohibition era and say:

"See how backwards we used to be? For 75 years, we outlawed a plant because we were afraid of progress. All that time, we could have been curing diseases, preserving our forests, and providing sustained work for our farmers and families.

"Instead, we let criminals and murders grow insanely wealthy while we spent over \$70 BILLION dollars a year fighting cannabis and putting our families in prison."

18. *Rasta* Says:

[August 19th, 2009 at 8:22 am](#)

ya mon, it is the blessed weed, the healing of nations... one lov

19. *alabamabelle* Says:

[August 19th, 2009 at 8:43 am](#)

I believe the reason the Pharm companies, which are government controlled, don't want to use the Natural cure or treatments is there big fat wallets. If they use there labs to replicate a natural chemical they make more money. Its cheaper to use the natural substance there for they make less money. The plant can be grown on farms and harvested like any other plant. Pharm companies could still extract the natural chemicals and put in pill form and make money just less of it. Check into this, I was told by a police officer there is a Marijuana Tax and sticker for it in Alabama. But since they can't control this distribution or sale that is why it is not in use and legalized. If legalized people could grow there own there for no taxes would be paid on it. Well my mother just had half her lung taken out due to cancer. And if there is a program anywhere in the U.S. that she can get into for research on this, I'm going to try to get her in it. She is under 75 lbs and is 67 yrs old. She can not take Cemo due to her size and health. So if cannibus will help her pain,gain her some weight and make her feel better then I will do what I have to do for her on that. People speak up for what you believe. If enough Americans would speak up and stop being scared of what people think of them because of it more would get done. You can buy air time and have documentary shown, but will

the broadcasting companies let you is the question. Look at the show Weeds on HBO. They air that show so why not.

20. *Norman Lepoff, M.D. ret.* Says:

[August 19th, 2009 at 9:32 am](#)

Very interesting information.

21. *Alex* Says:

[August 19th, 2009 at 9:59 am](#)

Whoa, ease off on the scientists here. Medical research always requires a lot of years of testing for any compound, cannabis related or not. Drug interactions, side effects, etc. all need to be tested. The real problem is with cannabis being a schedule I substance with “no medical benefit” causes the research to go more slowly. Please be more careful to not direct the anger towards the researchers who already risk looking very unprofessional in their research, and keep the focus where it truly belongs, on our government’s outdated cannabis policy.

22. *Will* Says:

[August 19th, 2009 at 10:00 am](#)

All politicians should be subject to weekly drug tests that include saliva, blood, hair, sweat, and urine. Then after they are drug tested (paid for out of their own pockets by the way) they can have a polygraph test and the investigator can ask them if they had an affair, did drugs that werent detected, or took bribes.

23. *hockey&Bud* Says:

[August 19th, 2009 at 10:12 am](#)

You can show the gov’t all the facts you want, but it wont change a thing. you must change the way Americans as a society think about marijuana. Some big name people need to come out and support the legalization of marijuana. It seemed to work quite well with the homosexual rights movements, but the only problem is that when big name homosexuals came out they werent arrested for what the loved to do. So we all need to push for more people to come out about smoking marijuana!

24. *Phil E. Drifter* Says:

[August 19th, 2009 at 10:14 am](#)

NORML could you PLEASE post different pictures of beautiful buds to the upper-right of each story, instead of using the same pic over and over again? Thanks in advance.

If you need more pics I bet some can be found at

<http://www.ggdub.com/>

25. *Joel: The other Joel* Says:

[August 19th, 2009 at 11:04 am](#)

Maybe they are afraid to ask because they don’t want to imbarass and to make prohibitionist look bad. After all, the prohibitionist tried very hard exploiting children to launch a culture war against freedom.

26. *Joel: The other Joel* Says:

[August 19th, 2009 at 11:08 am](#)

Maybe someday the prohibitionist will go back and become grammar nazis. lol

27. *David* Says:

[August 19th, 2009 at 11:32 am](#)

Paul, you're on top of everything these days it seems, so I just want to say keep up the good work! When it comes to these reporters and scientists, it saddens me that you have to do their job for them, but that just seems to be the way it is.

LEGALIZE!!

28. *Vladimir M. Ortega* Says:

[August 19th, 2009 at 11:49 am](#)

Im with Bob, cant we call a town hall meeting to talk about this issue? I mean if they can do this with health care, why not with Marijuana prohibition? because after all this is a big issue. We are talking about out governments denying us a medicine that care help us fight brain cancer, prostate cancer, breast cancer, lung cancer, skin cancer, and pancreatic cancer, and a lot of other things. Like killing our animals, raiding innocent houses, causing fire in our forest, attracting ilegal immigrants in to the usa because of our laws, and destroying our citizens future and life with their laws. Dont you think this is enough to make ppl want to start a town hall metting with their representatives and talk about this issues?

An with 16 Price, I would say that, I dont that they want to find the cure rather then just treat it becuae they see more money coming like that. Its pretty scary to even imagen havin ppl like that being our doctors, that al they think about is the money and they forget why the real reason ppl should do this, is to help people, not rob them of their life and money.

29. *Mike* Says:

[August 19th, 2009 at 11:54 am](#)

Doctors visit

Today was my appointment day to visit my pain management Dr. At the start of my appointment I was given a urine test for what I assumed to check if I had been using my meds. During my visit with the Dr. I talked with him about marijuana use to control some of the pain caused by nerve damage to my legs and feet. During this talk he informed me if I were to test positive for marijuana he would no longer be able to treat my or prescribe medications for my disability, because using marijuana was against the law.

Now get this, I ask if I were to commit murder or rape would he treat me, his answer was yes. So as I understand it I'm worst on society than rapist or murders because I use an herb to control pain. If there is a question on criminality should all criminals be subject to these archaic laws or just a select few. Is this not a violation of one's civil rights to be treated equal under the eyes of our government? How can the DEA stand between my and my doctor. I've lived in pain for over 6 years and tried every drug every thing the doctor has put me through and very little has helped. Most of the drugs are opiate based and I have an allergic reaction to opiates, so at this point I have no recourse for pain management. Our government sees to it that I must live in pain, how can this be right. It's time to correct these practices and allow doctors and patients to discuss therapies without the interference from the federal government.

30. *Vladimir M. Ortega* Says:

[August 19th, 2009 at 11:55 am](#)

Famous ppl can do a lot. I just wonder why I dont see them do it that often? I mean how many of them are they really and dont they have money? Dont you think if they all pitch in, we would have advance a lot further? I mean I dont know if they did but if they did, I hope they put a good amount. And hope all the other famous ppl follow them and do the right thing.