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AOAAM POSITION PAPER ON "MEDICAL MARIJUANA"

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Marijuana, like tobacco, has been smoked for centuries. Anecdotal and historical reports suggest numerous potential uses for "medical marijuana". Indications for some conditions (e.g., HIV wasting and chemotherapy-induced nausea and vomiting) have been documented; less evidenced-based information is available about other potential medical uses.

Additional research is needed to clarify therapeutic properties of cannabis and determine standard and optimal doses, as well as routes of delivery.

AOAAM's policy positions on cannabis as medicine are as follows:

Position 1: AOAAM supports ASAM's White Paper on "Medical Marijuana."

Position 2: There is a well-defined process for FDA medication approval; which should not be disregarded for therapeutic uses of cannabis.

Position 3: The AOAAM is concerned by the current trend of state law legalizing the prescribing of "medical marijuana" as 1) it is an illegal substance at a federal level and 2) there is no standardized dosing or mechanism of administration.

Position 4: AOAAM supports increased research for conditions where the efficacy of cannabis has been established to determine optimal dosage and route of delivery. In addition, the AOAAM supports research for prevention and *treatment of* cannabis abuse and dependence.

Position 5: AOAAM supports programs and funding for rigorous scientific evaluation of the potential therapeutic benefits of cannabis, versus the public health risk of addiction to "medical marijuana".

Position 6: As evidence is developed showing the efficacy and safety of cannabis with specific dosing regimens, its classification as a Schedule I controlled substance may need to be reconsidered.