



Is there a role for Medical Cannabis in Chronic Pain?
Thursday 14th November 2019
Churchill House, London, WC1R 4SG

Introduction

More and more patients attending the pain clinics the length and breadth of the United Kingdom are asking whether they can get a prescription for medical cannabis and some of them are finding benefit from using cannabis sourced outside clinical prescriptions. The NICE Guidance on Medical Cannabis is set to be published on 11 November 2019. The draft guidelines that was put out for consultation had recommended that there is no reliable evidence based on the review process carried out by NICE to support the use of medical cannabis in the management of chronic pain. Yet there are hundreds of thousands of patients benefitting from medical cannabis prescribed through clinics in Canada, US, Australia and various parts of the UK. The British Pain Society supports the recommendations of NICE for better quality evidence and the need for robust trials to accomplish it. However, it is difficult to predict as there are very few good quality RCTs in pain management. In the interim, we should look at how best we can support patients with difficult to treat pain who have exhausted several treatment options and how we can collect real world data as done in other parts of the world thus ensuring good and cost-effective clinical practice and safeguarding patients against potential adverse events. This meeting is first of a series of initiatives from The British Pain Society where clinicians with expertise on using medical cannabis are sharing their experiences with the UK clinicians so that they can debate and discuss the pros and cons of prescribing medical cannabis for pain management. The meeting is free of charge for clinicians due to the generous support of industry.

14:00-15:00 *Registration and coffee*

15:00-15:05 **Introduction and welcome** - Dr Arun Bhaskar, President, The British Pain Society

15:05-15:15 **Dr Silviu Brill** – Medical Cannabis: *Experience from Israel (via Telelink)*

15:15-15:30 **Dr Rosemary Mazanet MD PhD** – *Medical Cannabis in Neuropathic Pain: US Experience*

15:30-15:45 **Dr Paola Cubillos MD ND**– *Medical Cannabis: South American Experience*

15:45-16:00 **Dr Konrad Cimander Dr Med. Dipl.Chem** - *Medical Cannabis in Europe: German perspective*

16:00-16:15 **Prof Hance Clarke MD FRCPC PhD**– *Medical Cannabis: Canadian perspective*

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The British Pain Society is the British Chapter of the International Association for the Study of Pain

- 16:15-16:30 **Prof Saoirse O’Sullivan BA Mod Hons (Physiology) PhD – UK perspective on Medical Cannabis for Pain Management**
- 16:30-16:45 **Prof Val Curran PhD – Medical Cannabis and Psychiatric concern**
- 16:45-17:15 *Discussion and coffee*
- 17:15-17:30 **Dr V Kishan Mahabir MD FRCPC– Patient Registry with Medical Cannabis**
- 17:30-17:45 **Prof David Nutt DM FRCP FRCPsych FSB FMedSci – Twenty21 Project**
- 17:45-17:55 **Patient stories – CANNPASS**
- 17:55-18:05 **Patient stories – United Patient Alliance**
- 18:05-18:20 **Ms Ann Keen FRCN– Medical Cannabis: Political perspective**
- 18:20-18:30 **Dr David McDowell MBChB FFARCS– Cannabis Clinic Experiences from the UK**
- 18:30-19:00 Discussion
- 19:00 End of meeting

FACULTY

- **Dr Silviu Brill – Medical Cannabis: Experience from Israel (via Telelink)**
(Dr Silviu Brill is Specialist in Anesthesiology and Pain Management ,Director of the Institute for Pain Medicine, Tel Aviv Medical Center, Israel. Hon Secretary European Pain Federation Past-President of the Israeli Pain Association and Past President, Pain Section of the Israeli Society of Anesthesiology)
- **Dr Rosemary Mazanet MD PhD – Medical Cannabis in Neuropathic Pain: US Experience**
(Haemato-oncologist, Chief Scientific Officer, Columbia Care, Inc. New York, USA)
- **Dr Paola Cubillos MD ND– Medical Cannabis: South American Experience**
(Integrative and Functional Medicine, Columbia)
- **Dr Konrad Cimander Dr Med. Dipl.Chem – Medical Cannabis in Europe: German perspective**
(Specialist for general medicine and addiction medicine in Hannover. Chairman of the Admissions Committee of the Kassenärztliche Vereinigung Niedersachsen. Member of the extended national executive committee of the FDP in Lower Saxony).
- **Prof Hance Clarke MD FRCPC PhD– Medical Cannabis: Canadian perspective**
(Director, Pain Services, Toronto General Hospital; Director, Transitional Pain Service Medical Director, Pain Research Unit; Medical Director, Ehlers-Danlos Syndrome program).

- **Dr V Kishan Mahabir MD FRCP**– *Patient Registry with Medical Cannabis*
(Nephrologist and Medical Cannabis Expert at Sakura Medical Centre, Ontario, Canada)
- **Prof David Nutt DM FRCP FRCPsych FSB FMedSci** – *Twenty21 Project*
Faculty of Medicine, Department of Brain Sciences, Imperial College London
The Edmond J Safra Chair in Neuropsychopharmacology
- **Prof Val Curran PhD** – *Medical Cannabis and Psychiatric concerns*
(Professor of Psychopharmacology, University College London; Principal editor of the journal *Psychopharmacology*)
- **Ms Ann Keen FRCN**– *Medical Cannabis: Political perspective*
(British Labour Party politician, MP for Brentford and Isleworth from 1997-2010, Former Parliamentary Under Secretary of State in the Department of Health)
- **Prof Saoirse O’Sullivan BA Mod Hons (Physiology) PhD** – *UK perspective on Medical Cannabis for Pain Management*
(Associate Professor, university of Nottingham and leading researcher in the field of cannabinoids. Awarded the title of International Cannabinoid Research Society Young Investigator of the Year in 2016)
- **Dr David McDowell MBChB FFARCS**– *Cannabis Clinic Experiences from the UK*
(Consultant in Pain Medicine and Anaesthesia)
- **Patient stories** – United Patient Alliance
- **Patient stories** – CANNPASS