

Dr. Lakisha[®]

PH.D., RH (AHG)

Traditional Naturopath · Clinical Herbalist · Research Scientist

Where traditional medicine meets drug discovery.

Dr. Lakisha is a Traditional Naturopath, Clinical Herbalist, and research scientist who has spent her life proving that rigor and reverence belong to the same work. She holds a Ph.D. and the RH (AHG) credential. What she is building is not a practice but an ecosystem: pharmacognosy and novel botanical drug discovery, endogenous cannabinoid system science, and community-generated evidence, held together by the conviction that dignified care and ancestral knowledge were never meant to be pulled apart.

Her authority began at home, with her grandfather, an Indigenous herbalist who taught her that a plant is medicine and that knowledge of the land is a form of care. She is Founder and President of the Kiona Foundation, a 501(c)(3) she made a research engine rather than a memorial, so that the families most often failed by the system would be met as partners in the science meant to serve them.



AT A GLANCE

- Principal Investigator, IRB-registered ECS research (KF-ECS-2025)
- Founder and President, Kiona Foundation Inc. (501(c)(3))
- Chair, TGR Holdings Inc.
- United Nations Main Representative and Director, Empress League, EABIC Church of Salvation
- Community Steering Committee Chair, Global Cannabis and Psychedelics Research Collaboratory, University of Miami

Leadership and Affiliations

- Founding board member and first elected President, California Cannabis Industry Association
- Board member and California representative; founding Chair, Minority Business Council, National Cannabis Industry Association
- Founder, The Farm'acy Agricultural Cooperative, the first Cannabis agricultural cooperative licensed by the California Department of Food and Agriculture
- Director and United Nations Main Representative, Empress League, Ethiopia Africa Black International Congress Church of Salvation; signatory to the WHO Cannabis rescheduling (2020)
- Founding Member, Cannabis Nurse Task Force, University of Miami
- Former member, Jamaica Cannabis Licensing Authority Health and Wellness Committee
- Contributor, ASTM International D37; First 50 Sponsor, Women Grow

Speaking and Expertise

Pharmacognosy and novel botanical drug discovery · the FDA Botanical Drug Development pathway · the endogenous cannabinoid system and ECS modulation · Cannabis and natural psychedelic medicine as case studies · equity, access, and community-generated evidence · botanical medicine policy at the United Nations and WHO.

Selected Press

- High Times
- Forbes
- NPR, Morning Edition
- Rolling Stone
- Complex
- Black Enterprise
- Elle
- PopSugar
- Cannabis Science and Technology
- MJBizDaily
- Jamaica Gleaner

Global Reach

The work is global by design. She has built pharmacognosy and cultivation partnerships in Ghana, carries long ties to Jamaica, holds a founding role in the Zimbabwe Hemp Trust, and maintains active letters of intent across eleven countries. For more than two decades her work has moved across every level where health is decided: the soil, the laboratory, the clinic, the policy table, and the world stage.

PRESS AND BOOKING

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For interviews, speaking, and expert commentary.