



Dr. Lakisha

Ph.D., RH (AHG). Traditional Naturopath and Clinical Herbalist. Founder and President, Kiona Foundation. Principal Investigator, KF-ECS-2025.

Where traditional medicine meets drug discovery.

Who she is

Dr. Lakisha is a researcher, educator, and ecosystem architect working at the meeting point of traditional medicine and modern drug discovery. She leads botanical research anchored in pharmacognosy, from plant knowledge toward evidence that can stand in front of regulators, clinicians, and the communities the science is meant to serve.

She is Founder and President of the Kiona Foundation, a 501(c)(3) public charity, and Principal Investigator of its IRB-registered study on the endocannabinoid system. She has spent more than two decades building the science, the policy, and the infrastructure for botanical medicine to be taken seriously and shared equitably.

Signature topics

- **The endocannabinoid system, explained.** What it is, what it regulates, and why it may shape how people feel every day.
- **Novel botanical drug discovery.** The plant as a characterizable system, and the FDA Botanical Drug Development pathway.
- **Feeding the endocannabinoid system through nutrition.** How diet and botanical constituents support the body's balancing network.
- **Equity as the standard.** Health, agricultural, and Indigenous equity as the reason for rigor in botanical medicine.
- **Building research infrastructure.** How community-anchored, IRB-registered research gets built.
- **Cannabis as a case study.** C. Sativa L. within the wider pharmacognosy methodology, framed as science, not spectacle.

Formats

Keynote. Panel and moderated discussion. Academic guest lecture. Workshop or masterclass. Fireside conversation. Expert media commentary. Available in person and virtually.

Selected credibility

In the press. Featured or quoted in Forbes, NPR Morning Edition, Rolling Stone, Elle, Complex, Black Enterprise, PopSugar, MJBizDaily, Cannabis Science and Technology, the Jamaica Gleaner, and High Times, among others. Featured subject in the documentary Mary Janes.

On the stage and at the table. Testimony before the U.S. Congress. Public testimony to the New York Cannabis Control Board introducing the Kiona Foundation's research. Presentations at the University of California, Irvine School of Law and at an international Traditional Medicine and Acupuncture conference in Rome. Leadership with the National Cannabis Industry Association and as a founding board member of the California Cannabis Industry Association. Participation in United Nations Sustainable Development Goals programming.

In the science. Principal Investigator, KF-ECS-2025 (FWA00034558, IORG0012116). Registered Herbalist, American Herbalists Guild.

What audiences take away

A rigorous, plain-spoken understanding of the endocannabinoid system and botanical drug discovery, free of hype, grounded in evidence, and framed by the equity case that gives the science its purpose.

Booking

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