



CNTF

FALL 2026

NEWSLETTER



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WHO ARE WE?

The Cannabis Nurse Task Force is a multidisciplinary perspectives and community-led model designed to transform cannabis clinical practice from an epidemiologic and nursing perspective. Its mission is to integrate nursing expertise, patient-centered values, and population-level data to guide evidence-based approaches in cannabis care.

By emphasizing trust, inclusivity, and rigor, the task force aims to advance the role of nursing in shaping safe, effective, and equitable cannabis health practices.

2026-2027 Cannabis Nurse Task Force Mission and Goals:

As we reflect on another exciting year, the Cannabis Nurse Task Force celebrates the remarkable achievements of our members and collaborators. From groundbreaking research and new funding opportunities to scientific publications, national conferences, and international presentations, our collective efforts continue to advance cannabis nursing and evidence-informed patient care. These accomplishments reflect our shared commitment to innovation, interdisciplinary collaboration, and amplifying nursing voices in emerging areas of cannabis and psychedelic science. As we look ahead, we are excited to build on this momentum, strengthen our partnerships, and create new opportunities for research, education, and meaningful community impact.



OUR ACHIEVEMENTS



New Funding Expands Our Research & Community Impact

We are excited to celebrate several recent funding achievements that will support the continued growth of our research and community-engaged initiatives.



Provost's Research Award

Funding through the Provost's Research Award will provide additional support for advancing our research priorities and strengthening the collaborative's ability to explore emerging areas of cannabis and psychedelic science, aiding patients with chronic pain in South Florida.



Medical Marijuana Initiative

Support through the MMJ initiative further strengthens our commitment to advancing rigorous, evidence-informed cannabis research and expanding knowledge surrounding cannabis use, health, and patient experiences. This initiative will help young adults in South Florida.



Sylvester Community Award + Gilda's Club Partnership

The University of Miami Sylvester Comprehensive Cancer Center is partnering with Gilda's Club South Florida to better understand cannabis and psychedelic use and communication in cancer care. Through surveys, interviews, and focus groups, the study will explore patient experiences and oncology clinicians' perspectives to identify barriers and improve patient-provider communication. Findings will inform a trust-centered telehealth communication model supporting safer, evidence-based conversations about cannabis and psychedelics in cancer care.



EXPLORING THE FUTURE OF PSYCHEDELIC THERAPEUTICS

The FDA convened the hearing to gather public feedback and perspectives on the potential future therapeutic use of psychedelic drug products in supervised and supportive settings, including considerations related to safety and implementation.



CNTF REPRESENTED AT FDA PSYCHEDELIC PUBLIC HEARING

On September 14, 2026, Dr. Denise Vidot and Dr. Lakisha Jenkins attended the FDA's public hearing on the potential future therapeutic use of psychedelic drugs, alongside notable representation from the nursing community.



NURSING VOICES REPRESENTED

The presence of Dr. Vidot, Dr. Jenkins, and other nurses in support of this national hearing ensured that the nursing profession was represented as conversations surrounding the future of psychedelic therapeutics continue to evolve.

FROM RESEARCH TO THE WORLD STAGE

ICRS 2026 | Dijon, France

ADVANCING CANNABIS RESEARCH

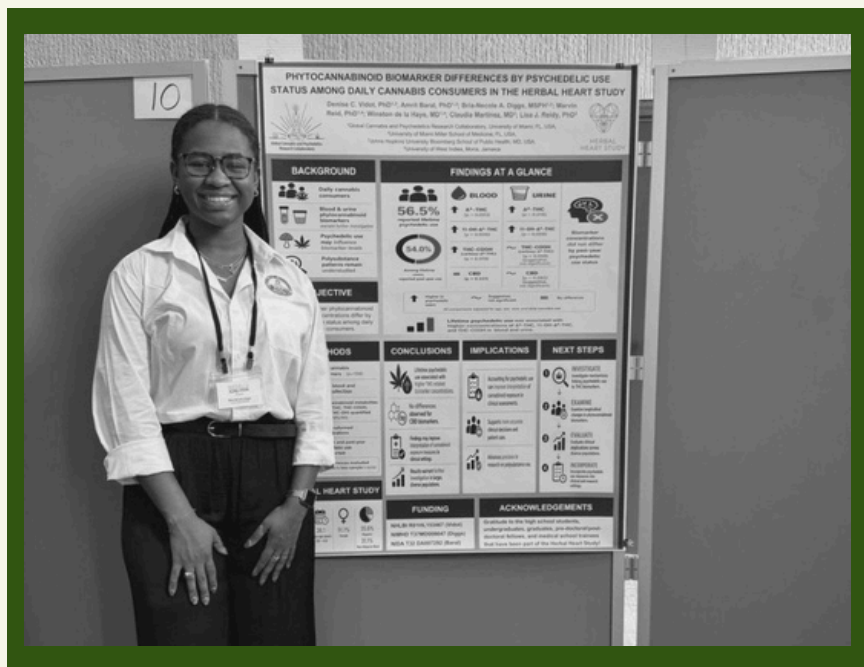
Collaboratory members contributed research to the international scientific program, including work from the Herbal Heart Study examining phytocannabinoid biomarkers among daily cannabis consumers by psychedelic-use status. The presentation included Dr. Denise Vidot, Amrit Baral, Bria-Necole Diggs, and collaborators.

EXPLORING AI & CANNABIS EDUCATION

The team also presented Cannabis Nurse-Led AI Harm Reduction Intervention Development: Multidimensional Perspectives of Acceptance and Barriers. The study examined how patients, nurses, and other health professionals perceive AI-supported cannabis education, including trust, comfort, and barriers to using AI for personalized guidance and emotional support.

BUILDING GLOBAL CONNECTIONS

Participation at ICRS provided an opportunity to share the Collaboratory's work with an international research community and contribute to the broader exchange of cannabis and cannabinoid science. The conference also created opportunities to strengthen scientific connections and bring emerging work in cannabis education, technology, and health to a global audience.





RESEARCH IN THE SPOTLIGHT

COLLABORATORY SHOWCASES CANNABIS AND SLEEP RESEARCH AT SLEEP 2026

The Global Cannabis and Psychedelic Research Collaboratory represented the University of Miami at the 40th Annual SLEEP 2026 Conference in Baltimore, Maryland, sharing emerging research on cannabis use and sleep-related health outcomes with researchers

and professionals from across the field of sleep medicine. The Collaboratory presented findings from the lab's NIH R01-funded Herbal Heart Study, as well as harmonized analyses conducted in collaboration with the University of Miami's Center for Translational Sleep and Circadian Sciences (TSCS).



Across the Collaboratory, NEXCITE scholars, doctoral fellows, postbaccalaureate fellows, and students presented four research posters highlighting different aspects of cannabis use and sleep-related health outcomes. The presentations showcased the breadth of ongoing research within the Collaboratory while providing emerging researchers with an opportunity to share their work with the larger scientific community.



EXPLORING THE BRAIN- HEART-GUT CONNECTION

The team also presented a rapid-fire symposium titled Cannabis, the Endocannabinoid System, and the Brain-Heart-Gut Axis: Multisystem Pathways Influencing Sleep Health. Drawing from findings across multiple studies, the symposium explored neurological, cardiovascular, and gastrointestinal pathways that may influence sleep and highlighted the importance of examining cannabis and sleep through a multisystem lens.

BUILDING CONNECTIONS AND ADVANCING RESEARCH

Participation in SLEEP 2026 provided an important opportunity to share the Collaboratory's growing body of research with the broader sleep medicine community, engage with experts across disciplines, and connect with potential collaborators. These conversations helped identify opportunities for future collaboration and strengthened connections between cannabis research and the evolving field of sleep science. The experience also provided valuable exposure for the Collaboratory's scholars and trainees while supporting the team's continued efforts to expand research examining cannabis use, sleep, and related health outcomes.

MEMBER SPOTLIGHTS

Our members are making incredible strides in cannabis research and practice! Each newsletter, we'll spotlight members to celebrate their achievements and contributions to the field.



Advancing Cannabis Nursing Through Research, Evidence & Innovation

My journey into cannabis nursing began in nurse anesthesiology, where questions about cannabis use and patient care sparked my passion for research. I am driven to close evidence gaps, challenge stigma, and advance equitable, evidence-informed care. My research explores cannabis-related stigma and how fear of judgment influences patient disclosure. I also led the development of the Cannabis Use and Behaviors Assessment Tool (CUBAT), designed to improve clinical assessment of cannabis use patterns and now undergoing feasibility and validation work. My goal is to help build an evidence-driven specialty where nurses lead research, shape clinical standards, and translate emerging science into meaningful patient care.

Daniel King
DNP, CRNA, CNE, CPPS, FNAP, FAAN

Bridging Science, Compassion & Cannabis Nursing

As a doctoral-prepared nurse practitioner, nurse-midwife, and nurse coach, I believe every patient deserves compassionate, evidence-informed care without stigma or judgment. My work in education, coaching, research, and advocacy is driven by a commitment to bridging emerging endocannabinoid science with clinical practice while empowering patients and nurses alike. I am passionate about advancing diversity and representation in cannabis nursing, ensuring that all voices and experiences are valued. My vision is to help shape a more inclusive, ethical, and informed healthcare system that honors patient autonomy, challenges misinformation, and embraces whole-person care.

Love Hawkins
DNP, APRN, WHNP-BC, CNM, NC-BC





The Year Ahead: 2026-2027

2026-2027 Cannabis Nurse Task Force Goals: Brief Overview

Optimizing 2025 -2026 Term: What worked last year ? What didnt?

Provide experiential knowledge (context) for the development of a cannabis harm reduction intervention.

Contribute as co-author for study findings.

Prioritize recommendations to address issues in cannabis nursing field.



Thank You!



**To our Cannabis Nurse Task Force community,
Thank you for your continued dedication, collaboration,
and commitment to advancing cannabis nursing
through research, education, and advocacy.**

**Your expertise, perspectives, and contributions are
essential to shaping evidence-informed practices,
strengthening our professional community, and
improving patient care.**

**As we look toward the year ahead, we are excited to
build on our collective achievements, foster new
opportunities, and continue making meaningful
progress together.**

**Here's to another year of collaboration, innovation, and
impact!**