

From: Ricky Loftin

Sent: 12/23/2015 2:24:01 PM

To: katrinashealy@scsenate.gov;  
Creighton Coleman; Tommy Ruffin;  
Kathryn Richardson; Haley, Nikki;  
MaryGail Douglas; Tom Rice; Todd  
Rutherford; James Clyburn; Harris  
Pastides; Cameron Runyan; Lindsey  
Graham; marytinkler@schouse.gov;  
robertwilliams@schouse.gov;  
ronniesabb@scsenate.gov;  
robertbrown@schouse.gov; John W.  
Matthews; Kent M. Williams; Leah E.  
Holloway; Jr. Harry Ott;  
leolarobinsonsimpson@schouse.gov;  
lonniehosey@schouse.gov;  
sethwhipper@schouse.gov;  
marvin.quattlebaum@nelsonmullins.co  
m; Mick Mulvaney; mia@schouse.gov

Cc:

Subject: Need to cure all my disease  
with seeds and medical marijuana!

You'll have my letter(s)....

# Rheumatology Expert: Medical Marijuana Needs Serious Consideration

- [Arthritis](http://www.leafscience.com/topics/arthritis/) [Health](http://www.leafscience.com/topics/health/)
- — Nov 4, 2013

<http://www.leafscience.com/wp-content/uploads/2013/11/canadian-rheumatologist-marijuana-11-04-720x340.jpg>

(Photo: The Now Project)

**A rheumatology expert from Dalhousie University believes medical marijuana could be very useful for managing pain and inflammation in arthritis, but needs to be taken more seriously by those in the field.**

Jason J. McDougall, PhD, an Associate Professor of Pharmacology and Anaesthesia, was one of the experts who spoke at a session called “Medical Marijuana and the rheumatologist”, reports Rheumatology Update. The session took place during the ACR/ARHP Annual Meeting in San Diego and was the first ever to be held on the topic.

“There is a social stigma attached to cannabis that is not wholly justified... These are serious drugs and we need to take them seriously as a way of managing pain effectively.”

Dr. McDougall also explained the difference between plant-derived and synthetic cannabinoids and those that occur naturally in the body – endocannabinoids. Since marijuana remains illegal in most parts of the world, much of the research has been done with synthetic cannabinoids and endocannabinoids instead. Yet a stigma still follows, it seems.

“These endocannabinoids are serious contenders to try and alleviate pain and inflammation in rheumatic diseases, we need to stop sniggering about it and talk about it, and embrace them with the necessary caution of course.”

Dr. McDougall has conducted research on the use of cannabinoids and endocannabinoids in treating osteoarthritis. In an earlier talk on “The Basic Science of Chronic Pain,” he noted that 36% of authorized marijuana patients in