Although it is illegal under federal law to possess or sell marijuana, the government has said they will look the other way if states want to legalize it as long as some regulatory system is in place. Regulation of marijuana started in the 1900’s and became under increasing scrutiny with the formation of the Federal Bureau of Narcotics (FBN) in 1930. The FBN produced propaganda films claiming that marijuana caused people to commit violent crimes, act irrationally and overly sexual. The Marijuana Tax Act of 1937 effectively made possession or transfer of marihuana illegal. It remains classified as a Schedule I drug which is defined by the Drug Enforcement Administration as a substance that has a high potential of being abused by its users and has no acceptable medical uses.

Starting in the 1970’s and continuing, states began to legalize marijuana for medicinal and in some cases recreational use. Alaska, Colorado, Oregon and Washington have entirely legalized the drug; the District of Columbia also fully legalized marijuana but some parts of the law are being blocked by Congress. Twelve states have “decriminalized” possession and another ten have legalized it for medical use. In most other states possession is a misdemeanor, but it remains a Felony in Alabama (as if you needed another reason not to go to Alabama).

So here is the part where I ruminate on the innocence of marijuana and call for complete legalization. And that is what I previously expounded and may be the way to go, but I am no longer as dogmatic. I started college and joined a fraternity with at least 7-10 others who at the time were pre-med. Four years later, I was the only one to enter medical school. In fact, there was only one other that even applied. After endless, non-scientific discussions and thought, the only conclusion I can make is that either drugs (mostly marijuana) or pinochle (mostly for money) caused the others to drop out. All started college with good grades which soon plummeted. They were for the most part, intelligent individuals, some smarter than me, with great high school records who just lost interest. Most became psych majors and all were savvy enough to find a way to avoid the draft. (Remember, John Blutarsky was also pre-med.)

Was there any cause and effect? Would this have happened anyway? It just seemed that certain people underwent significant personality changes and maybe this was for the better but I don’t think so. It’s not that they ever made a conscious decision not to continue but just passively went along. They didn’t control the drug, rather the drug seemed to control them. Now this may have been true for others in the fraternity that weren’t pre-med, but if you were already a psych major how would you know? Didn’t that mean you just gave up from the start?

I would still overwhelmingly come down on the side of legalizing marijuana as the damage done in incarcerating people has still not been rectified. The Reagan administration’s “three strikes law” has ruined thousands of lives with intolerable prison sentences; although, Obama seems to be trying to pardon as many of these poor souls as possible before he leaves office.

I just can’t be as cavalier as I once was (about this) and if you think this is generational just read these lyrics by Afroman (aka Joseph Foreman, I Got High, 2001):

“I was gonna go to class before I got high
I couldn’t cheated and I couldn’t passed but I got high
I’m taking it next semester and I know why (he got high)”

Alan G. Wasserman, M.D.
Department of Medicine
November 2016 Grand Rounds

NOV 3 “Infertility”
David Frankfurter, MD
Professor of Obstetrics and Gynecology
Fertility and IVF
GW Medical Faculty Associates

NOV 10 “Women’s Cardiac Health”
C. Noel Bairey Merz, MD
Professor of Medicine
Medical Director, Women’s Heart Center
Director, Preventative and Rehabilitative Cardiac Center
Director, Clinical Scholars Program
Cedars-Sinai
Los Angeles, CA

NOV 17 “GU Oncology”
Jianqing Lin, MD
Associate Professor of Medicine
Division of Hematology/Oncology
Department of Medicine
GW Medical Faculty Associates

NOV 24 HOLIDAY

Cardiology Grand Rounds
5:00 PM, Ross Hall, Room # 104

NOV 2 “Mortality & Morbidity Conference”
Drew McCaffrey, MD

NOV 9 “Women’s Cardiac Health”
C. Noel Bairey Merz, MD
Professor of Medicine
Medical Director, Women’s Heart Center
Los Angeles, CA

NOV 16 No Conference– AHA

NOV 23 No Conference - HOLIDAY

NOV 30 “Indications for ICD Therapy “
Allen Solomon, MD
Professor of Medicine
The George Washington University

Resident Lecture Series
November 2016 Noon Conference

NOV 1 Journal Club - Drs. Tanuka Datta and Victoria Elkis
NOV 2 GME
NOV 3 Medicine Grand Rounds
Dr. David Frankfurter - Infertility
NOV 4 Recruitment
NOV 7 Recruitment
NOV 8 “Morbidity and Mortality”
Drs. Srikar Kumar and Bryan Senisi
NOV 9 Recruitment
NOV 10 Medicine Grand Rounds
C. Noel Bairey Merz – Women’s Cardiac Health
NOV 11 Recruitment
NOV 14 “Dermatology for the Internist”
Dr. Adam Friedman
NOV 15 “GI” - Topic TBD
NOV 16 Recruitment
NOV 17 Medicine Grand Rounds
Dr. Jianqing Lin - Immunotherapies For The Treatment of Genitourinary Cancers
NOV 18 Recruitment
NOV 20 Recruitment
NOV 22 “Mystery Diagnosis”
Dr. Richard Simons
NOV 23 TBD
NOV 24 HOLIDAY
NOV 25 HOLIDAY
NOV 28 Recruitment
NOV 29 “Value Based Reimbursement”
Dr. Nupe Mehta
NOV 30 Recruitment

The George Washington University Medical Center (GWUMC) is accredited by the Accreditation Council for Continuing Medical Education (ACCME) to sponsor continuing medical education for physicians. GWUMC designates this continuing medical education activity on an hour-for-hour basis in Category 1 of the Physician’s Recognition Award of the American Medical Association (AMA).

Medicine Team Contacts

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GREEN TEAM (202) 715-6062
RED TEAM (202) 715-6039
BLUE TEAM (202) 715-6156
SILVER TEAM (202) 715-6040
PURPLE TEAM (202) 715-6042
GOLD TEAM (202) 715-6044

ADMITTING RESIDENT 741-0161 pager
**TOP DOCTORS — 2016**

**WASHINGTONIAN MAGAZINE**

**Allergy:** Daniel Ein, MD, Janine Van Lancker, MD

**Cardiology:** Brian G. Choi, MD, Richard J. Katz, MD, Jannet F. Lewis, MD, Allen J. Solomon, MD, Cynthia M. Tracy, MD

**Cardiology Interventional:** Ramesh Mazhari, MD, Christian Nagy, MD, Jonathan S. Reiner, MD

**Endocrinology:** Joshua L. Cohen, MD, Nicole Ehrhardt, MD, Michael S. Irwig, MD, Jill M. Paulson, MD

**Gastroenterology:** M. Aamir Ali, MD, Showkat Bashir, MD, Marie Borum, MD, Antoinette Saddler, MD

**Geriatrics:** Elizabeth Cobbs, MD, Danielle Doberman, MD, Robert L. Jayes, MD, Christina M. Puchalski, MD, Katalin Roth, MD

**Infectious Diseases:** David M. Parenti, MD, Afsoon Roberts, MD, Marc O. Siegel, MD, Gary Simon, MD, PhD

**Internal Medicine:** April Barbour, MD, Jillian Catelanotti, MD, Anne Cioletti, MD, Jehan (GiGi) El-Bayoumi, MD, Charles J. Faselis, MD, Andrea L. Flory, MD, Robert S. Jablonover, MD, Parvinder Sheena Khurana, MD, Robert M. Kruger, MD, Matthew Mintz, MD, Brad B. Moore, MD, David K. Popiel, MD, Paul A. Silver, MD, Amy Stone, MD

**Nephrology:** Scott Cohen, MD, Ashté Collins, MD, Susie Lew, MD, Samir S. Patel, MD, Dominic Raj, MD

**Oncology/Hematology:** Khaled El-Shami, MD, Lauren Mauro, MD, Robert S. Siegel, MD, Imad, A. Tabbara, MD

**Pulmonology:** Jalil E. Ahari, MD, Vivek Jain, MD

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**Please Join Us In Welcoming Our Newest Addition to the Medicine Faculty**

**Julie Rosner, DPM** joins us as a full-time faculty member in the Division of Podiatry. Dr. Rosner earned her Doctor of Podiatric Degree from Temple University School of Podiatric Medicine in Pennsylvania, 2013. She recently completed a three year Residency in Podiatric Medicine and Surgery at the Chino Valley Medical Center, CA. She is licensed in the state of California and the District of Columbia.

Dr. Rosner’s scholarly activities include participation in three research projects, and plans to participate in future research initiatives.

Dr. Rosner’s special interests include wound care, diabetic foot, rearfoot reconstruction, ankle surgery, bunion surgery, hammer toe correction, plantar fasciitis, sports medicine and neuromas.

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**Congratulations to Dr. Aileen Chang,** who was awarded a CTSI-CN KL2 Scholar Award from the Clinical and Translational Science Institute at Children’s National (CTSI-CN), for her study entitled “Zika-induced Guillain-Barré Syndrome: Elucidating the role of antibodies”.

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**Congratulations to Lara and Ashraf Fawzy** on the birth of their beautiful baby girl, Celine Sara Fawzy; born on October 12, 2016, at 10:18pm. Celine weighed 8 lbs. 1oz and was 20.5 inches in height.
Rheumatology Academic Conference Schedule
November 2016

2300 M Street, Suite 3-332
8 AM – 11:30 AM
Questions? Call (202) 741-2488

NOV 3: Journal Club
Dr. Serafi and Dr. Phillipotts

NOV 3: Fellows sign-out & M & M

NOV 3: Knowledge Bowl and Rheumatology
Board training /Preparation
Dr. Taylor/ Dr. Curiel

NOV 10: Radiology Conference
Dr. Katherine Brindle, MD
Associate Professor of Radiology
Chief, Musculoskeletal Radiology

NOV 10: Fellows sign-out & M & M

NOV 10: Knowledge Bowl and Rheumatology
Board training /Preparation
Dr. Taylor/ Dr. Curiel

NOV 17: No conference
ACR Annual Meeting

NOV 24: Thanksgiving Holiday - No conference

Kudos, Congratulations & Commiserations

Kudos...to Dr. Lisa Rider, Clinical Professor of Medicine, Rheumatology, one of the leaders of the GW Myositis Center who was awarded the PhRMA Research and Hope Award.

Kudos...to Tracy Miller, Patient Services Coordinator, Department of Medicine for going the extra mile in providing excellent service to a patient, “Ms. Miller went above and beyond to help me make an appointment with an internist.”

Congratulations… to Dr. Alice Chen, Hospital Medicine, and her husband, on the September arrival of their baby boy, Teyjas Dong-Liang Hallegere Murthy - a combo of his Indian and Chinese heritage!

Kudos...to Dr. Anne Cioletti, General Internal Medicine, on her application which was selected for funding from the Society of General Internal Medicine, SGIM, for the ProudtoBeGIM working group!

Kudos...to Dr. Ginger Winston who was invited to speak at the National Obesity Week meeting in early November as part of a consortium of trials awarded NIH/NHLBI grants. Link below: http://obesityweek.com/session/findings-from-the-obesity-related-behavioral-intervention-trials-orbit-consortium-developing-and-testing-novel-approaches-to-obesity-prevention-and-treatment/

Commiserations...to Dr. Ashté Collins whose father passed away.

See you next month! The Editor