



Office of the Executive Vice Chancellor and Provost

To: Deans, Directors, Department Chairs and Administrative Officers

Dear Colleagues:

I am writing to update you about the handling of on-campus activities related to marijuana and cannabinoids, including research, sponsored conferences, course offerings, student activities, fundraising events, and the solicitation of gifts, contracts and grants.

Changes in state laws (notably Proposition 215 in 1996, covering medical marijuana; State Bill 566 in 2013, on the legalized cultivation of industrial hemp; and Proposition 64 in 2016, concerning adult recreational use) have decriminalized the sale, possession, distribution, and cultivation of *Cannabis sativa L.*, also known as marijuana, in California. However, federal law still classifies marijuana, including most parts of the marijuana plant and cannabinoid compounds, as Schedule I controlled substances that are regulated under the Controlled Substances Act, or CSA, which makes it illegal in most instances to possess, cultivate or distribute cannabis.

Research into the use of cannabis is important and within the purview of the UCLA faculty. Members of our community have expressed interest in collaborating on projects with the marijuana industry and with a variety of cannabis-related business and nonprofit organizations, and in seeking support from individual donors and companies with ties to the cannabis industry. However, as a recipient of federal funding, UCLA is obligated to comply with various laws and regulations including the CSA, the Safe and Drug-Free Schools and Communities Act and the Drug-Free Workplace Act.

Two recent memos, prepared by the University of California's Research Policy Analysis and Coordination office, provide important guidance and background information. See [UC RPAC Guidance Memo 19-02](#) and [UC RPAC Guidance Memo 18-01](#).

Consistent with the requirements specified in these memos, I have identified the Research Policy and Compliance unit of the UCLA Office of the Vice Chancellor for Research as the administrative home for the development and dissemination of campus policy related to this issue and for answers to queries about industrial hemp. In responding to your questions about cannabis-related activities on campus, Research Policy and Compliance will review proposals for such projects and make recommendations for action plans that take into account existing precedent and ensure compliance with applicable law and UC policy.

To assist with this process, Ann Pollack, assistant vice chancellor for research, and Michael Roth, the Department of Medicine's vice chair for research compliance and an experienced cannabis researcher, have agreed to co-chair a Cannabis Advisory Board. The advisory board will evaluate requests for guidance about beginning cannabis research or related

initiatives and assist in drafting policy and guidance. The vice chancellor for research will serve as the deciding official in situations in which the primary issues are related to institutional risk.

For more information, see the [UC Guidance Memos](#) on cannabis-related campus activities and funding. Please contact Ann Pollack at 310-794-0387 or apollack@research.ucla.edu with questions.

Sincerely,

Scott L. Waugh

Executive Vice Chancellor and Provost