

*The Charles R. Schuster Congressional Briefing Series presents*

# **Opportunities and Challenges in Cannabinoid Research**

**Sponsored by the Friends of NIDA**

*In Cooperation with*

**The Congressional Addiction, Treatment and Recovery Caucus**

**Wednesday, February 27, 2019**

**12:00 – 1:30 PM**

(lunch will be available)

**Rayburn House Office Building, Room 2043**

Marijuana is the most commonly used illicit drug in the United States. Nearly 10 percent of people in the U.S. report using marijuana in the past month, with young adults especially likely to report current use. Heavy marijuana use, especially beginning in adolescence, is linked to a number of adverse health effects, including an increased risk for cannabis and other substance use disorders. At the same time, cannabinoid compounds present in marijuana have also been recognized as having medicinal use. Indeed, the U.S. Food and Drug Administration has approved several cannabinoid drugs, including, most recently, Epidiolex (cannabidiol) for the treatment of pediatric seizure disorders. The expansion in the number of states legalizing marijuana for recreational and/or medicinal purposes, increases in the potency of marijuana, and changes in how marijuana is consumed underscore the need for additional research on the effects of marijuana and marijuana-related policy changes on health and disease. This briefing will explore the current state of cannabinoid research and the regulatory challenges associated with it.

## **Speakers**

**Nora D. Volkow, M.D.**, Director of the National Institute on Drug Abuse of the National Institutes of Health

**Alan Budney, Ph.D.**, Professor of Psychiatry, Dartmouth College Geisel School of Medicine

**Margaret Haney, Ph.D.**, Professor of Neurobiology, Columbia University Irving Medical Center

**Elise Weerts, Ph.D.**, Professor of Psychiatry and Behavioral Sciences, Johns Hopkins University School of Medicine

## **Sponsoring Organizations**

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Please contact Cynthia Whitney ([cmalley@apa.org](mailto:cmalley@apa.org)) with questions.