

CANNABIS

WORLD JOURNALS

Women and medical cannabis: *a non-prejudiced relationship*

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Discovering the
feminine side of
the cannabis
plant

The role of 'Rif'
women in
cannabis
production in
Morocco

Gender Equity in the
Cannabis Industry:
Developments and
Challenges

Cannabis and
women's health.
Alternatives for
the treatment of
breast cancer



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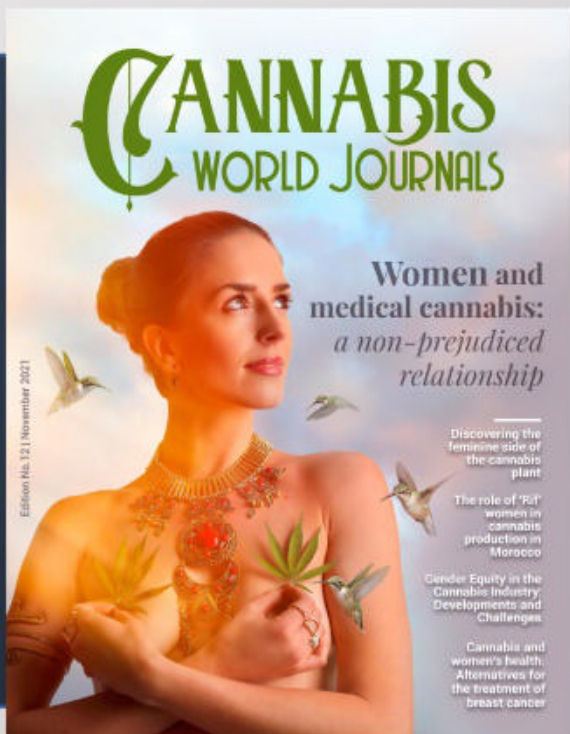
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Our magazines **CannaMed** and **CannaLaw**, dedicated to the therapeutic and legal regulation areas of cannabis respectively, have decided to join forces to offer you a new biweekly magazine about cannabis: **Cannabis World Journals**. **CannaMed** magazine and **CannaLaw** magazine are now sections of **Cannabis World Journals**, and along with these you can find another two brand new sections in order to provide a global look about the plant: we are talking about **CannaTrade**, with the goal of revealing the rhythm of the business established around cannabis; and **CannaGrow**, dedicated to the botany and cultivation of the cannabis plant. Cannabis World Journals is the most complete magazine about cannabis for demanding readers like you. Without further ado, receive the warmest welcome to Cannabis World Journals. Enjoy!

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Women and medical cannabis: *an unbiased relationship*

On July 2, during a webinar we held on *how to successfully enter the cannabis industry*, one of our panelists: Carolina Cuervo, co-founder of the Meraqui Foundation and mother of a 14-year-old boy, who began to present episodes of epilepsy and cognitive disability as a child, told us about what became for her a lesson in life, faith and struggle.

Without being shy and more proud than ashamed, Carolina revealed what she went through; from the crying, helplessness and resignation to the solution that came one unexpected day. She said that undoubtedly a mother's love and a woman's perseverance gave her the light amid an illness in which hopes of finding a treatment for her son were exhausted.

With this brief but powerful story, with more joys than regrets; this lawyer originally from Bogota, Colombia, did not hesitate to consider that the only cure for her son was medical cannabis.

Carolina's story connects us with the constant struggle of women, and the dedication that only they know how to have to overcome any adversity.

On October 19th, International Breast Cancer Day was celebrated, and although Carolina's story is not related to a woman suffering from this condition, we want to make an analogy and highlight the role played by activists, doctors, promoters, growers, friends, mothers, aunts, colleagues, and all those who every day contribute to the growth of this sector, and that become a hope of treatment or recovery for some patients.

When researching, there are those who are for and against medical cannabis, but undoubtedly the female gender is the one who is more inclined to use the plant in different presentations as a medicine, especially to relieve menstrual cramps and discomfort, improve their sex life, control menopausal symptoms, anxiety and stress; these last two, and according to a survey by JWT Sonar, most women in the United States suffer from them and cannabis seems to be a solution to that problem.

This edition is dedicated to all women who, in one way or another, see in medical cannabis an alternative for quality of life, and especially to those who have had to carry in their 'breasts' the harsh reality of living with breast cancer. This edition tells us that women and cannabis is a relationship without prejudice.



The Argentinean woman and her contribution to the regulation of cannabis usage

Fortunately, the maternal instinct of the human species maintains its coherence with mother earth and, once again, shows us how to move forward. Given the international crisis the world is going through, this is not always an easy task. They were painful years, but not only the last two, the last fifty as the military dictatorships prohibited the use of the plant and practically suppressed the hemp industry. Therefore, it was the mothers who organized themselves to claim their disappeared children.

This is how the Mothers of Plaza de Mayo were born, for the memory, justice and truth of their children. Years later, from the same South American region, it was again the mothers who expressed themselves in favor of life, and the self-cultivation of cannabis, for the health of their daughters and sons, and that is how Mamá Cultiva was born. Throughout time (the short time between the prohibition and now), the women, more than once, organized themselves to defend human rights, going through discrimination, prejudices, and leaving behind their more docile version, and they succeeded.

It was in the street, and against the official stand, the struggle was carried out. With these examples I would like to say that South America has been the cradle of courageous women, who have left their lives for the good of their community, and who transcended their own imprint. They were not directors of organizations subsidized by multinational entities or



multi-millionaire philanthropists, nothing like that. Women are the warriors who are conquering freedoms, and who will finish freeing those who are still missing. Liberating those imprisoned for planting and the obsolete drug laws are the pending debt of the State with the cannabis community and in particular with women.

The enhancement of article 8 of Law 27350, which authorized personal and community cultivation in Argentina, was essential to promote a more national movement that made different activists and cannabis movements visible and connected the different sectors; a group of entrepreneurs soon emerged, and everything followed its "natural" course, considering the nature of this new industry, but with few intentions to reformulate its illegal nature.

Based on the female profile in social struggles, I have no doubt that women will also be the ones to achieve the change of Law 23737, which continues to criminalize us in this part of the world.



Leonardo Mesa

Commercial and institutional radio broadcaster. Currently he works in Radio Cannabis de Argentina as producer and operator, which is his own online radio where he publishes current and trending cannabis content. He shares the space with other productions and has over 20 years of broadcasting and stage experience.



Cannabis activism

@sandracorominas is the owner of an Instagram and Facebook profile where you will find posts from a woman spreading the word about the proper use of cannabis. "My idea is to bring together people who are with the construction of peace and education as a social engine and motivate those who follow me so that between all of us, we make a change under a free, supportive, and less selfish society. I share and open healthy spaces for debate. I read with attention and respect what other people think. First, I think and then I publish. Peace is built with honesty, but without attacking those who are different from us".

Seminar: "Responsible and safe prescription of cannabinoids".

Dr. Maria Fernanda Arboleda; anesthesiologist, specialist in chronic pain, palliative care, and expert in medical cannabis; will conduct the seminar: "Responsible and safe prescription of cannabinoids" on November 19 and 20. This academic cycle is supported by the School of Medicine of the Tecnológico de Monterrey and the Algia Center for Health Education. Find more information at: www.drmaferarboleda.com



Cannabis Radio in Argentina

Radio Cannabis is the first online radio station about cannabis with 24 hours of selected music for lovers of blues, reggae, chill out, rock, electro, and sounds to accompany daily tasks, thanks to the commercial support of important companies in the sector. In terms of information, the best "podcasters" collaborate with their creative style and with national and international interviews to the protagonists of the cannabis culture. You can listen to them at www.radiocannabis.com.ar





The feminine side of cannabis:

***an analogy of women's role in the medical
cannabis industry.***

The role of women in relation to the female cannabis plant undoubtedly coincides in more than one characteristic. Both are creators of life, resilient, bring happiness, are healers and the origin for more.

Discovering the feminine part of the cannabis plant

One thing that is not so common but that hides behind the cannabis plant, is its dioecious categorization by the sex of the flowers it presents: male or female. In this opportunity we will focus on the female flowering plant to understand its importance.

The first step is to identify and differentiate it through its shape and development. When the plant is in a vegetative state, the male and female features are not clearly defined: the reason is that the pre-flowering stage is when the sexual organs are formed and is when it is possible to discover to which gender it corresponds.

The female plant begins with the formation of



the calyx, which is generated in the fourth week of vegetative growth. The preflowers appear behind the stipules, which are formations on each side of a leaf base, in the fourth or fifth internode of the stem. The female preflower shows a pair of long hairs called pistils that are white in color.

"Usually, pistils are formed after another part of the pre-flower develops: the light green bract, which houses the seed" (Cervantes, 2007). The pre-flowering phase lasts from one to two weeks to finally initiate one of its most incredible processes: flowering. During this stage the plant becomes very shrub-like with dense foliage, initially the flowers appear near the apex of the terminal bud (the highest part), and then develop on the lower branches.



The photoperiod is important because the plant is preparing to produce seeds or seedless flowers. In this phase the plant is usually exposed to a period of 12 hours of light in which it makes photosynthesis to convert light into energy (ATP) used for metabolism, respiration, nutrition, growth, reproduction, and finally release oxygen. During the other 12 hours the plant in darkness performs the Calvin cycle, where all the stored solar energy is processed and converted into carbohydrates; it is in this period when more trichomes with good concentrations of cannabinoids are produced.

Two things can be generated from the flowers: the first is the production of seeds that originates from sexual reproduction with the male specimen, since its pollen fertilizes the female sexual organ, giving rise to seeds with genetic material from both parents.

Second: seedless flowers, which are of great interest in the cannabis industry; since through them the best resin yields are obtained with a great variety of cannabinoids and other compounds of the plant that are used as medicine or for its adult use.

Undoubtedly, the most important plant for many is the one with female flowers. From them arise compounds such as terpenes, flavonoids and of course, phytocannabinoids that have the therapeutic contribution for the treatment of various diseases and disorders because we have an endocannabinoid system with which these molecules interact.

Plants with female flowers are those that maintain the survival of the species through fertilization, which fulfills the function of generating the greatest number of seeds that are viable and develop adequately to be maintained during different generations.

If we try to make an analogy that evokes the role of women in relation to the female cannabis plant, there is no doubt that they coincide in more than one characteristic. Both are creators of life, resilient, bring happiness, are healers and the point of origin for more.

If we apply it to the industry, the work of women doctors, biologists, lawyers, engineers, veterinarians, growers, designers, chemists and more professions that give everything to generate and offer the best of themselves, where in the execution of their work they focus and are determined to produce and provide with greatness the fruits of their labor, as do the female cannabis plants in their moment of darkness in which they produce the most important and valuable part of the plant for the industry.

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In the Expert's Room:

Interview with
Jennifer Marqués
Nurse, Brasil

Nurse in Brazil treats cancer patients with medical cannabis

"During the first few days of cannabis therapy the patient shows progress in mood, increased appetite, improved quality of sleep and emotional stability."

"We are educated from school that cannabis can affect my brain or is a malicious drug that does harm because there is no educational model of care and communication about the medicinal use of cannabis."

As we mentioned in our editorial, this is a special edition because October celebrated International Breast Cancer Day. We set ourselves the task of researching women who in one way or another have contributed to the treatment of this condition through medical cannabis. Jennifer Marques is a Brazilian nurse, who works with patients suffering not only from breast cancer but also from other types of cancer.

She revealed to Cannabis World Journals the goodness and benefits of the use of medical cannabis in people with cancer, and that beyond being a treatment it is "a relief, not only of physical pain, but also of emotional pain". Interview.

Cannabis World Journals (CWJ): How did your interest in medical cannabis come about?

Jennifer Marques (JM): In addition to studying medical cannabis, I was a patient and used CBD oil for a while, and also vaporized flower with psychiatric guidance for the treatment of depression. I was able to notice significant progress and improvement that led me to stop medication with antidepressants. I went from an estimated treatment time of a year and a half to only 9 months. This got me thinking about the relevance of getting my experience out there and being able to create an Instagram and start talking about what I experienced.

I am a continuing education nurse, I work with primary health care with a focus on oncology patients, I accompany patients who use Nebatil™ (THC and CBD) and according to their stories, they told me that they presented relief and progress against cancer effects. Therefore, nurses are health educators and much of the cannabis education comes from us, not only from physicians, but we also need to decentralize that role to doctors as well.

CWJ: Why do you believe it is important to talk about breast cancer in Brazil?

JM: In recent decades, Brazil has gone through an epidemiological transition and according to data from INCA (National Cancer Institute) and the Oncoguia Institute, cancer is the second leading cause of death in Brazil, behind circulatory diseases such as heart attacks and cardiovascular complications. It is estimated that by 2022 there will be around 600,000 to 625,000 new cases of cancer and breast cancer represents 30%. That is why we need to raise awareness and 'Pink October' talks about awareness, screening, and early detection, but it is also very important to talk about prevention because there are factors that are involved in the development of cancer, such as: poor diet, smoking, lifestyle, and it is crucial to talk about health education, to remind people that prevention starts much earlier.

CWJ: What kind of information is available to the patient when receives the diagnosis and how is led to treatment?

JM: I want to emphasize that in fact a risk factor that contributes to the evolution of cancer is the person's lifestyle, it is very important to take that into account. Another very important aspect is that, even though there is a great stigma attached to the disease and a totally understandable fear, cancer can be cured.

Primary health care is important to understand the risk factors and how someone can face and develop the disease, nowadays there are advanced therapies and that is why the campaign 'Pink October' was created. If the person knows

the symptoms, performs their exams on time, because the sooner the diagnosis is made, the earlier the treatment will be started, optimizing the cure time.

CWJ: What are the traditional treatments that exist today for the management of breast cancer? Are there any consequences or adverse effects of the standard treatments?

JM: Before I talk about treatments, I want to first say that, if you discover something strange in your breast such as a cut, discharge, skin with a wrinkled texture known as orange peel, nodules, not only in the breasts, but in the armpits or neck it is important to go to the doctor and not put off the diagnosis.

Schedule a consultation and if you receive the diagnosis of the disease early, the doctor will be able to indicate which treatment will be the most appropriate depending on each case, just to remember and understand a little better. There are 4 main types of breast cancer: luminal A, which grows slowly but can take years and even months to develop; luminal B, which advances more rapidly and feeds on hormones produced by the body itself and is highly invasive as it can attack other organs; HER2 positive or triple negative, which has no hormone receptors and is not HER2 positive; and finally a cancer that depends on hormone receptors that grow depending on the levels of progesterone and estrogen. Therefore, depending on each type of cancer there are treatment protocols consisting of radiotherapy, chemotherapy, and surgery.

After passing through one of these procedures, in some cases hormone blockers are used and for each of these treatments there are different moments and collateral symptoms. Chemotherapy has a systemic effect, it attacks not only the tumor cells, but also other cells in the body, causing hair loss since hair cells are in constant renewal and chemotherapeutic drugs block part of the cell cycle, causing nausea, vomiting and fragile nails.

Radiotherapy has side effects on the skin; therefore, the patient is asked to avoid sun exposure and take care of the skin to avoid burns as it is highly sensitive. Some patients depending on the stage of

the cancer will need hormone blockers, and there will be women who should take it for a certain time that can last up to 10 years depending on the aggressiveness of the disease and the symptoms reported are similar to those of menopause, excessive heat, vaginal dryness, loss of libido and these are important symptoms for us as women.

It is necessary to turn to alternative medicines and why not phytotherapists. Such as medical cannabis, there is already scientific evidence of its use in the treatment of cancer patients, especially breast cancer.

CWJ: What is the difference between the use of synthetic drugs and the use of cannabis and its medical implications? What are the benefits of medical cannabis?

JM: Synthetic medications play a very important role, they provide immediate relief of symptoms and go to meet at that time the needs of the patient as is the case of antiemetics to treat nausea, and vomiting caused by therapies, however; the pharmaceutical industry -and in my opinion as a nurse related to this industry- is that they are not in favor of alternative treatments because of economic and lucrative implications, therefore; they are not in favor of a medicinal plant that cures and alleviates symptoms to which a synthetic medicine is available in the market to do so, as is the case of cannabis.

The purpose of cannabis is very different from that of synthetic drugs, cannabis is not palliative and is not only specific for those symptoms. Our human body has an endocannabinoid system, which means that the oil or any other form of cannabis use will help regulate that system, which is a role that synthetics do not have and do not have that power.

The improvement of the side effects is gradual, as you take the oil in the dosage recommended by the doctor, specifically for your condition, as the days go by, you will feel a relief of these symptoms because the CBD is going to treat the source and identify what is in imbalance in your SE.

Sometimes during chemotherapy, which is usually done every 21 days, the patient spends 14 days feeling sick, discomfort, nausea, vomiting and will have a week of rest to recover for the next session, and simply cannot live on remedies because there are sometimes patients with other diseases and take not only medications to treat cancer and its side effects, but to treat other conditions.

The use of cannabis is important to regulate the SEC for its anti-inflammatory and antioxidant action that prevents the progression of cancer, in addition to the fact of receiving a diagnosis of a disease that represents a taboo because it is seen as a synonym of death and tragedy, which leads to depression, anxiety depending on the phase in which it is found, as it is a challenge for each person.

Medical cannabis helps in the relief, not only of physical pain but also of emotional pain, something that synthetic drugs cannot do, and that vision should be promoted by the medical group that should position itself and open its mentality.

CWJ: In your experience, how do breast cancer patients react when you talk to them about the use of cannabis or its derivatives as a treatment and symptom relief?

JM: : Currently, it is very rare to see the patient seeking cannabis as a treatment because they think it is a drug, but cannabis is used medicinally, we are not talking about cannabis for recreational use. Patients are not educated about cannabis, and doctors have neither the time nor the interest to give that information, and many patients use cannabis with fear and concern of having some psychoactive effect or feeling high from the moment they use it.

However, during the first days of cannabis therapy the patient shows progress in their mood, increased appetite, improved sleep quality and emotional stability and they know that they are talking about a medicinal oil, not a drug. They themselves begin to relate their personal story, to share their experiences for other people and this makes other patients awaken interest in another

alternative to treat the disease. We are educated from school that cannabis can affect my brain or is a malicious drug that does harm because there is no educational model of care and communication about the medicinal use of cannabis.

We need to start moving, talking, informing, educating. As a nurse I am a pioneer and I am proud of the role I have as a cannabis activist, we need to offer courses for health professionals, for patients, and to be able to talk openly about the subject; just in my workplace we attend thousands of patients. Here in Brazil, it is urgent that people understand and release the medicinal use of cannabis so that the health of thousands of patients is not harmed.

A story that has caught my attention is that of a friend whose mother had cancer, went through chemotherapy, surgery, and a very complicated emotional process. As my friend is a veterinarian and uses CBD as a treatment for the animals she works with, she told her mother about this alternative, because she saw that her mother was suffering not only physically but also mentally.

Consequently, she looked for the oil and started using it. After a while she told me that her life was different, she felt very good, she was much better, her quality of life was different, also using the vaporized flower as a medicine helps at bedtime, treats anxiety, so it is a way to be well both physically and emotionally.

CWJ: Do you consider that breast cancer can be treated with medical cannabis and for what stages? Are there any contraindications to the use of cannabis?

JM: There is reliable scientific evidence, and studies in development related to the anti-cancer power of medical cannabis; I am quite excited to be able to say this (laughs), to think that cannabis can help prevent tumor growth, by inducing apoptosis or programmed cell death.

When we see a breast cancer in an advanced stage the patient can start a treatment with cannabis and it will help considerably to slow down its progression because advanced cancer is very aggressive and can reach other organs of the body, but it has been shown that cannabis can prevent this from happening, therefore, it is very important that studies are conducted with cannabis. In mid-2000 a researcher discovered that CBD could have antioxidant and anti-inflammatory action, and it is important that many doctors are aware and updated on the subject.

Patients should know that they can request treatment with medical cannabis from the beginning of their diagnosis to improve their quality of life. Regarding the contraindications of cannabis, it seems that there are some in specific cases -women in pregnancy and in cases of psychosis- but talking about cancer I have not seen any evidence reporting problems related to its use.

There has not been any research commenting on breast cancer specifically. I have been working as a nurse for 5 years and have never heard a report of adverse effects. For some it may not have presented significant effects, but for the vast majority I have received positive comments.

CWJ: How is treatment with medical cannabis carried out in oncology patients?

JM: Treatment with cannabis oil is personalized. It is done in an individual therapy and depends on the symptoms of each patient, in order to determine what is the ideal amount of phytocannabinoids and the concentration of CBD and THC, therefore some doctors perform genetic mapping to visualize the patient's oncological situation and decide what type of oil to use, either a broad spectrum oil containing THC and CBD to relieve acute pain, or a CBD oil with a THC content of 0.3%. Depending on the medical prescription, as it is a personalized therapy directed to each patient, it is very difficult to present side effects.

CWJ: What do the medical, cultural, and legal implications of cannabis use in Brazil? What is your position and final comments regarding the regulation and use of cannabis in Brazil?

JM: We are fighting and waiting for the 39915 bill that seeks to legalize the safe cultivation of medical cannabis in patients to be approved and to be able to define the rules to benefit associations that work on a small scale and not pharmaceutical companies that seek to profit from the use of medical cannabis.

This stage of legalization will take some time. Brazil needs to understand that cannabis is safe, efficient, and economically favorable and that, in these times of financial crisis, where many people are going hungry, homeless, without clothes and without work, the cannabis market emerges as an opportunity for progress for hundreds of people, since it is a sustainable and environmentally friendly market.

There are already associations that are generating employment, many mothers who treat their children with the oil and grow their own plants and need to be with them to meet their needs and provide the special care that these patients require. This is a market that offers shelter, income, and a very large financial benefit for all of us.

CWJ: How do you see the role of women in the medical cannabis industry?

JM: We women are always open in some way to talk about cannabis, especially when we refer to mothers who look to CBD oil as a possible treatment and cure for their children's ailments, and who know that it will provide them with a quality of life. They will seek in every possible way to have access to this medicine, showing dedication, devotion, love, and commitment to their children. Thanks to this, movements of women cannabis activists are emerging, who are willing to fight, resist and talk about the issue, that there are people who defend this cause, and that women must be united and be part of the sector being enterprising and aware of the importance of the use of medical cannabis.

I thank you for the opportunity and for opening the doors to talk about a topic that needs to be disseminated. Cannabis is an incredible plant that has great power and has been used since ancient times and needs to be rescued and recognized for the important role it plays.





Argentina, a country getting **stronger** with medical cannabis

Like many countries, Argentina is on a path that allows it to expand the legalization of cannabis for medicinal use. Although it is an issue that has taken years of research, and the struggle of different associations, this has led to a gradual disappearance of the prejudice that is found within its inhabitants. Below, we inform you about the situation in the "gaucho" country regarding the legalization of medical cannabis.



REGULATIONS

- Law No. 27,350 regulates medical and scientific research on the medicinal, therapeutic or pain palliative use of the cannabis plant and its derivatives.
- Act 738 of 2017 by which the use of cannabis derivatives is approved.
- Act 830 of 2020 approving the self-cultivation of cannabis.
- Resolution 654/2021 approving the Exception Access Regime for products containing cannabinoids or derivatives of the cannabis plant intended exclusively for medicinal use.

ACCESSIBILITY

The regulation in Argentina specifies that the State may pay for the use of cannabis for those who do not have coverage beyond the public health system; in addition, prepaid and social security entities must cover approved treatments prescribed by authorized physicians.

Patients who wish to register in the Registry of the Cannabis Program (Reprocann), which depends on the Ministry of Health, can do so personally or through family members or civil associations, with medical indications and safeguarding confidentiality,

"These are authorized to buy medical cannabis and derivatives, as well as to import those products that the National Administration of Medicines, Food and Medical Technology - ANMAT approves

CULTIVATION

The most recent regulations indicate that through the Reprocann, those who have a medical indication will have access to the legal authorization for self-cultivation, as well as authorizing the National Council of Scientific and Technical Research (Conicet) and the National Institute of Agricultural Technology (INTA) to cultivate cannabis to produce medicinal oil and for scientific research.

The State allocated a budget for the development of seeds, crops, scientific studies, research, and sale; it will also collaborate in the production of cannabis with the National Agency of Public Laboratories (ANLAP) for the eventual industrialization for therapeutic and research use and will deliver it to patients through the National Bank of Oncological Drugs or through authorized pharmacies.

The National Seed Institute (INASE) oversees regulating the production, dissemination, handling, and conditioning of cannabis propagation entities that allow the control of seed traceability.

NON-GOVERNMENTAL ASSOCIATIONS

With respect to civil associations, the regulations in Argentina are very clear since there is self-cultivation in civil associations with legal and social recognition, so the government should forge agreements and recognition in those public, private, and civil organizations that show cultivation tending to strengthen the medicinal treatment system.

The following are some of the civil associations present in the country:

- Ciencia Sativa: Non-profit Civil Association, born in San Carlos de Bariloche, Argentina, which aims to investigate, inform, and assist the community in the different uses of cannabis and other therapeutic plants.
- CAMEDA: Civil association that seeks legal access to medical cannabis for patients.
- CANNABIS Y MUJERES ARGENTINA: Non-governmental organization dedicated to the promotion of the multiple uses of cannabis.
- ARGENCANN: is a business association whose purpose is to promote research, development and expansion of the cannabis industry and its derivative products in Argentina and abroad.

EMPLOYMENT

The Argentinian government plans to generate up to 10,000 jobs in the cannabis industry by 2025.



PROJECTIONS

According to research carried out by the American trademark BDSA and presented in a report through the Ministry of Productive Development of the Nation, it is expected that Argentina could present an increase in the international market that could reach 55.9 billion by 2026.

CURRENTLY

Although the entire industry in Argentina is just starting on the subject, the production of medical cannabis already has businesses in place. María Laura Sandoval, a cannabis and hemp business consultant in the country, stated that "the main Argentine laboratories are already working on cannabis, in the research and product development phase. They can request a permit from the government for research. Some laboratories started importing this pharmaceutical raw material, developing their product, and even registering it". This shows that the country is facing a very important moment to open its doors and generate interest from foreign investors for the development of the Argentine cannabis industry.





- The 'Rif' areas in Morocco, is a reality that does not please many.

The role of 'Rif' women *in cannabis production in Morocco*

Women in the 'RIF' regions of Morocco are considered the first support of men to ensure the family income. They are considered a symbol of hard work, especially since most RIF families depend on cannabis cultivation as their primary source of daily food, and income from tending the land throughout the year to get the best results in the harvesting seasons.

However, the female gender in this area of the world does not benefit economically and even their working conditions remain miserable, so most female workers hope that their conditions will improve after the legalization of cannabis for medical and industrial uses.

Rural Morocco started its cannabis crops at the expense of other crops such as cereals and legumes, which are no longer self-sufficient, because of the difficult orography of the region that limited arable land. However, most of the women agree that agriculture is

profitable, the salvation to their extreme poverty and see in it a bright future for their children and them.

Fatima, a hemp worker in the 'RIF' says that since she was young, she has been working in the hemp fields, the same as her father and husband, while her eldest son saves money by working during the vacations in these fields. Although for many having a job is synonymous with stability, this farmer claims that the salary is very miserable because they only receive 60 Moroccan dirhams per day, which is equivalent to approximately 16 US dollars, and she considers that it is not enough to cover her needs or those of her family, and to that, according to her, must be added the wear and tear on her mental and physical health.

Another is the story of Bushra,

A cannabis worker in "RIF". She is a young woman who grew up in the RIF region and married a young man from the "Rif" region.

She says that the first thing that struck her since she arrived in the area was the quality of life, even though they have qualifications that allow them to earn millions in a year if they plant cannabis, despite the monopolies and terror exercised by illegal groups in some areas.

"We hope that the regulation of cannabis use will help us, especially us, the workers in the cannabis fields, that it will give us a better life and a bright future for our young children. Those who we predict will lose their future if we continue in this situation and that is by taking this plant as a drug instead of

benefiting from it as a source of livelihood," Bushra said.

Today there are several models of women who have benefited from products extracted from hemp, such as hemp oil, which is used in cosmetics, skin care and against joint pain.

These projects have been led by women who have put their 'pants on' in the country, but who unfortunately forgot their 'RIF' fellow women in order to provide them with development and financial stability.



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In the United States, some women raise their voices for those deprived of liberty in cannabis-related cases

Approximately

40.000

people are behind bars in the United States for cannabis-related convictions.

In some sectors of the United States there is still a feeling of rejection towards people who in one way or another use cannabis or its derivatives for medicinal or recreational purposes. It seems that misinformation is the order of the day, resulting in several people behind bars for a cannabis-related crime.

This industry has become a source of income and investment. In North America there are already 17 states that have regulated its use, and although this shows the will to increase the spectrum of legalization of cannabis use, there

are still those who continue with their legal situation under review, or even more, citizens who are not eligible for government subsidies because it seems that their criminal record still shows some cannabis-related crime.

Given these circumstances, anyone would sit back and think: if the prison system works this way, with a person's identity and data when incarcerated, then **how many people are in prison for cannabis use?**

Approximately 40,000 people are behind bars for cannabis-related convictions.

That figure was revealed by a Bureau of Justice Statistics (BJS) inmate survey in 2004, the last time data on drug-specific convictions was published, so researching this number is like trying to ride through a tsunami on a paper boat.

Wendy Sawyer

Director of Research at the Prison Policy Initiative,

Said, "You can dig into such an old data set, but is it still relevant?" In addition to the release of inmate data, BJS only collects data on the primary offense, i.e.: the most serious offense for which someone has been convicted. Usually in an apprehension, law enforcement authorities add additional charges to the one who has been captured, in addition to the possession of cannabis.

Kassandra Frederique, Executive Director of the Drug Policy Alliance (DPA) said:

"it is difficult for us to demonstrate the pervasiveness of drug prohibition in driving the prison system if we don't have the data", while stressing that many times the police add drugs (in this case cannabis) as excuses for unrelated crimes.



Another opinion was taken by **Wendy Sawyer, from Prison Policy Initiative**, saying that one of the members of the Massachusetts State Senate tried to fight against the expansion of prisons and jails in the state.

"They needed some data on the incarceration of women in Massachusetts. It's exactly the kind of information that should be easily accessible, especially to a state legislator, but they couldn't find it."

Without data indicating the current level of women's prison incarceration in the state, there are obvious difficulties in debating regarding the creation of another prison.

Women and the cannabis industry: leadership that breaks down barriers

In recent years, more and more women have been participating in the cannabis industry, making contributions through their leadership and empowerment. The importance of the female gender has been a determining factor in social changes, and the misguided stereotypes of consumers and an obsolete male-dominated industry have been left behind.

Women who have long had a relationship with the cannabis industry have been left in the background. With the evolution of successful business models and changes in legislation, their role is undergoing a major overhaul. At this point it is crucial to give women the recognition they deserve for modernizing and giving so much to the cannabis industry.

As the movement towards legalization grows internationally, women have begun to come out of the "cannabis closet." As a result, popular culture's representations of women using cannabis have changed.

Some examples of this are, when in 2018 the exhibition *«We are Mary Jane»*



Women and Cannabis opened at the Hash Marihuana & Hemp Museum in Amsterdam, whose aim was to exalt the role of women as the vanguard of cannabis culture, relying on great women such as the Chinese goddess Ma Gu, to the pioneer in the realization of hashish Mila Jansen.

There are multiple scenarios where women have taken more and more space, and the cannabis industry is one of them.

Here are some female icons who, at different times and in different ways, fought for a fairer society in which cannabis was given the place it truly deserves:

Mary Jane Rathbun (1922 – 1999)
She was a renowned medical cannabis

rights activist, often referred to as the "Florence Nightingale of the medical cannabis movement".

Her advocacy for the legalization of cannabis use began in the 1960s, but it was her volunteer care at San Francisco General Hospital for HIV patients during the 1980s that brought her fame. At the height of the HIV epidemic, Rathbun used her famous recipe for cannabis-infused brownies to help relieve some of the ailments caused by the infection and get patients nourished.

Wanda James

She was for a long time the first African American to own a cannabis dispensary in the legal Colorado market. Prior to owning a dispensary, James served on Barack Obama's finance committee in 2008. She currently serves as CEO of Simply Pure, a medical cannabis dispensary.

Michka Seeliger-Chatelain

Michka has been at the forefront of this industry since the 1970s is a clear example of the importance of women within this field. An expert in hemp and marijuana, Michka is a writer of articles and books that have been translated into several languages. She is also the founder of Mama Éditions publishing house.

Elana Goldberg,

She's CEO at The Cannigma, an Israeli company whose main objective is to educate people about the use of the plant or its derivatives by answering all questions about cannabis using information based on scientific research and evidence. This company is growing every day and so is its credibility and the support of its audience.

Chanda Macías

Chanda is CEO of Women Grow, founded in 2014 in Denver. Women Grow is considered the largest national network of cannabis professionals in the United States and Canada.

Women who openly participate in cannabis discussions have had a huge impact on the pro-legalization movement in many countries such as the United States, Italy, Canada, Spain, Argentina, among others.

And while there is still a lot of work to be done to bring fairness and equality to the industry, the hard work that has taken years is beginning to pay off. Little by little, the cannabis industry will offer real empowerment to the women of the future.

Maternity and cannabis consumption: Does it have to be a right?

Legalization and expansion of the cannabis industry go hand in hand, and there is an increasing social acceptance of the benefits of the plant backed by scientific and medical research. Therefore, cannabis use among women of reproductive age has increased, according to the Pregnancy Risk Assessment Monitoring System (PRAMS).

As a result of the above, several questions and oppositions arise regarding the rights protected and involved in the consumption

of medical cannabis or adult use. Within the universe of fundamental rights, of course the power to decide what is consumed is one of them. It is in fact within the sphere of the free development of personality that several countries initially allowed the consumption of the personal dose of cannabis. However, these rights are reconsidered when it comes to a pregnant woman and the scope that the law should have in prohibiting or not the consumption of cannabis in any form.

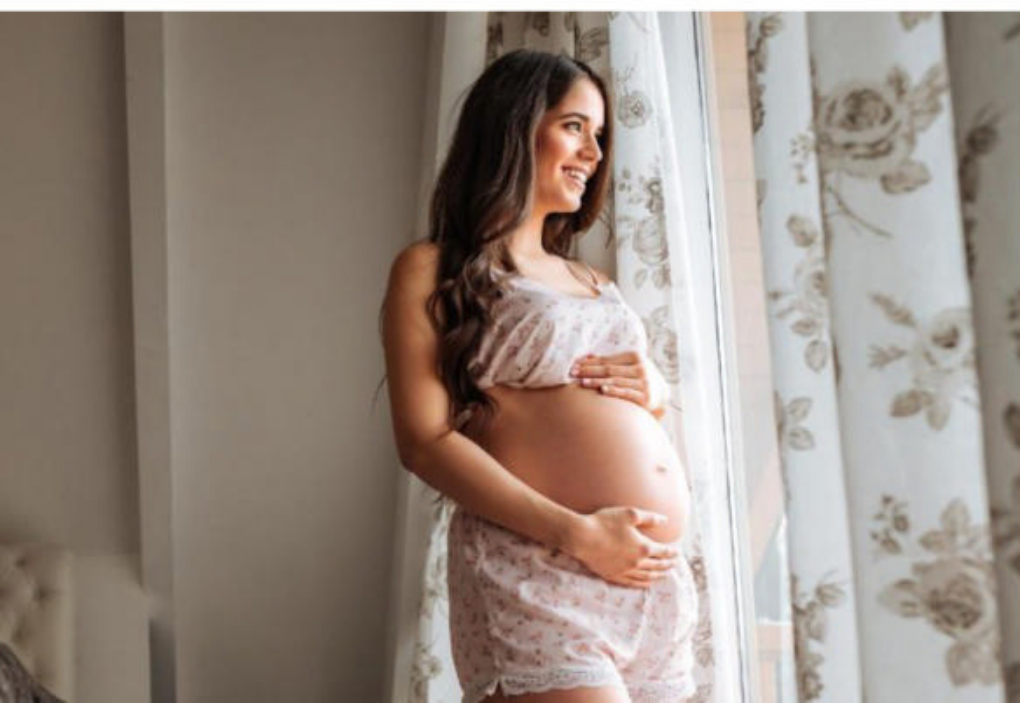


Cannabis and pregnancy:

According to Kelly Young-Wolff, Ph.D., a psychologist and research scientist at Kaiser Permanent of Northern California's Division of Research, an increasing number of women are using cannabis while pregnant to combat pregnancy-related nausea. However, there are no approved indications for cannabis use during pregnancy; in fact, research to date suggests that cannabis has negative effects during pregnancy and is associated with lower birth weight and neurocognitive deficits.

It should also be remembered that cannabis has more than 80,000 cannabinoids and not all of them have the same effects. While the medical community is almost entirely in agreement about the negative effects of THC on pregnant women, the same is not true for CBD. It is increasingly common for women to turn to CBD-based oil during pregnancy to treat muscle aches and swelling related to pregnancy.

The FDA itself admits that there is no comprehensive research studying the effects of CBD on the developing fetus, the pregnant mother or the breastfed baby. The FDA is still collecting and studying data on the potential harmful effects of CBD during pregnancy and breastfeeding. However, based on what is known, there is significant cause for concern.



The arising problems:



Finally, in the field of law, whether it is illegal or legal does not solve the problem of there being cannabis consumption in any form during gestation or lactation. In a reality where contradictory concepts about the benefits of cannabis continue to be "sold", it is sometimes difficult to filter information about what is really proven and what is mere speculation. It has even been stated on occasions that it could be a case of child abuse when cannabis is consumed during pregnancy or breastfeeding.

These topics are still very complex when it comes to opposing rights, on one hand, there is the right to the free development of the personality and on the other hand, the right to life and health. We have the rights of the mother on one scale and the rights of the fetus or minor when it is born, but undoubtedly the biggest problem that remains is that we still need conclusive results.

This implies that there must be a responsibility on the part of the medical community to have more conclusive research that will allow the woman to make an informed decision where she can alleviate her conditions without endangering the unborn child.

This scenario is one of many that is complex and continues to be a challenge for legislation. As long as there are no studies, sufficient and 100% reliable data, the law will continue to navigate a sea of blind possibilities in which it is clear what and whom it seeks to protect.



The medical cannabis industry is gaining momentum, even though men began to lead this industry, the role of women has been decisive for its development.



According to a report made by Vangst, 17.6% of women in the industry occupy managerial positions, while men occupy 82.4%.



Women with their creativity, intelligence, and determination; strongly drive the multiple edges of the cannabis industry and its products.

Great women, great business

More and more women are becoming involved in the cannabis industry in the legal, scientific, cultivation or advertising areas, without ruling out other lines of business. The following is a summary of female personalities who have been very close to medical cannabis.



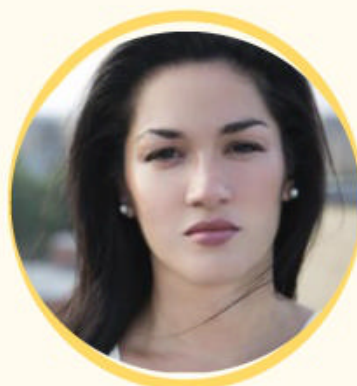
*Brett
Heyman*

Fashion designer and founder of Edie Parker, a New York-based accessories brand used by major celebrities such as Demi Lovato, Miley Cyrus, Kendall Jenner, Gigi Hadid, and many others. In 2019, Heyman ventured into the cannabis industry with Flower by Edie Parker, a line of accessories for cannabis consumption that have been integrated into several dispensaries in the United States and were even included in Edie Parker's latest collection presented at New York Fashion Week.



*Rebekah
Hall*

Banker who decided to venture into the cannabis industry in 2018 through her company Botanic Lab, a health drink brand that launched the first CBD-infused drinks in the UK market, which gradually expanded to become a leading cannabis beverage company.



*Giadha A. De
Cárcer*

Expert strategist, specialist in International Security and with a degree in International Relations and Trade with European citizenship. Giadha is the first female immigrant to create and lead a cannabis financial technology company, New Frontier Data in the United States, which so far operates 4 offices in charge of generating financial studies and reports on the industry.

In this article we have listed some of the hundreds of women who have been pioneers, founders and leaders in the industry; demonstrating their business vision and leadership in the different economic sectors that medical cannabis offers.



*Rosy
Mondin*

Lawyer and director of World-Class Extractions Inc. a public industrial company in Vancouver, Canada, that specializes in cannabis extraction technologies. She is also co-founder and executive director of the Cannabis Trade Alliance of Canada (CTAC), an organization that represents and advocates for private cannabis businesses. Mondin has been involved in processes and organizations that support the regulation of cannabis use and promote access to medical cannabis.



Gender Equity in the Cannabis Industry: Developments and Challenges

Today, the cannabis industry is considered **one of the most** innovative and inclusive, even more so when considering that a large percentage of the companies are run by men. Statistics on the presence of women and men in the industry vary from country to country, however, we can take as a reference the United States, one of the world powers in this area.

According to a report made by MJBizdaily in 2019 women occupy 36.8% of positions in the industry, this number, although higher than those registered in construction or technology, is still below others such as real estate where 50% of positions are held by women and in education 68%.

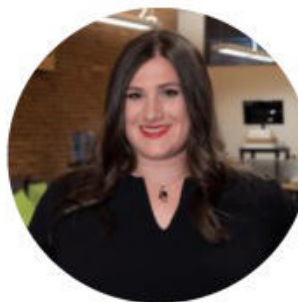
What about development?

One could jump to the conclusion that there is inequality in the industry, however, if we take equity as a starting point, we must include other references that are not limited to general statistics, since that 36.8% refers to positions in the industry... let's talk about pioneering women, to mention a few:



Mara Gordon: Founder of the American laboratory Aunt Zelda's, a non-profit organization that develops phytopharmaceuticals

based on organic cannabis. It operates as a clinic where the effects of cannabis on patients are studied. Its goal is to develop potency in the efficacy and purity of organic cannabis for the purpose of pharmacies developing more cannabis-based medicines.



Amanda Ostrowitz: Founder of CannaRegs, a platform that assists lawyers, government officials and entrepreneurs with all the necessary tools

to meet the regulatory challenges of the market.



Cynthia Salarizadeh: Founder of AxisWire - a leader in breaking news and technology suites for entrepreneurs. Her main objective is to determine

and distribute information on the medical cannabis industry.



Cristina Sanchez:

Biologist at the Complutense University of Madrid, her research focuses on the study of the endocannabinoid system

in the oncological context, and her goal is to understand it in molecular terms and to clinically exploit the antitumor action of cannabinoids in breast cancer.

And the list continues...

Kate Miller, co-founder, and CEO of Miss Grass

Nidhi Lucky Handa, founder of LEUNE

Kristi Palmer, co-founder of Kiva Confections

Brett Heyman, founder of Flower by Edie Parker

Mary Pryor, co-founder of Cannacclusive

Summer Frein, U.S. managing director of Lord Jones and Happy Dance

Catharine Dockery, founder, and general partner of Vice Ventures

Solonje Burnett, co-founder of Humble Bloom



Challenges to overcome

Social Stigma



This is a general challenge for the cannabis industry that still faces misinformation, social prejudice and taboos. However, who better than a woman to understand the complexities of the industries and overcome obstacles?

still gaps for the needs of the market to be met and covered by legal advances. There are still many situations that will have to be defined, but only experience accompanied by the initiatives of the actors involved in the industry will be able to create a coherent and progressive industry.

Gender Equity



Successful incursions into the industry continue, and there is even speculation that the cannabis industry may be the first major industry to be dominated by women. Ultimately, what is being targeted within the cannabis industry and setting the example for others to follow is inclusion, diversity and equity for all.

Conclusions...

The industry is challenging but behind every great challenge there is a great woman. Thanks to their leadership, perseverance and discipline, the industry has grown and has taken a big step towards legalization. Take a look at the executives who have work with the governments of different countries that have already regulated the plant, businesswomen who have successful businesses, and activists who inform and raise awareness of the benefits of medical cannabis.

Coherence



Legalization is the first step and although it has been constant in recent years, there are

Sugar and Kush, the brand by women for women



The abilities, skills and competencies of women have become more evident over time; one example is Laura Brenner and Danielle Papajan, who not only founded and created a company, but also developed products that are part of a difficult and controversial industry such as cannabis.


Sugar and Kush arose as a result of the cancer that Laura was diagnosed with when she was just 31 years old and which led her to undergo surgery to remove the tumors, this situation motivated her to investigate alternatives that would help her in a natural way, thus promoting a change of habits and the adoption of a lifestyle in which she discovered CBD, which Laura says helped her to overcome her illness and the series of challenges it entailed.

On the other hand, Danielle, impacted with the recovery process of her best friend Laura, decided through a platform to share this story to help other people. From there, these two

friends joined their ideas and capabilities with the sole intention of creating a brand that was not only friendly, but also fun and with which women could identify.

This may seem simple, but the reality is that these women were risk-takers when they decided to enter a market dominated by male users and entrepreneurs, and which is still highly judged and misunderstood. This was not an easy task, as they had to educate users about the benefits and characteristics of cannabis derivatives.

Currently, their products include oils that help improve health conditions; foods such as cookies and gummies; and personal care products such as scrubs and soaps, all with the same ingredient in common, CBD. Thus, through Laura and Danielle's creativity, effort and dedication, they managed to make Sugar and Kush represent accessibility, femininity and fun.



Based on the review: Future aspects for cannabinoids in breast cancer therapy (Kisková et. al., 2010). International journal of molecular sciences, 20(7), 1673. doi:10.3390/ijms20071673

CANNABIS AS A TREATMENT FOR BREAST CANCER

Cannabinoids derived from the cannabis plant are known to alleviate adverse effects associated with chemotherapy treatment in cancer patients.

Cannabinoids are already administered to breast cancer patients in advanced stages of the disease but could also be effective in earlier stages to slow tumor progression.

Future aspects of cannabinoids in breast cancer treatment

Breast cancer is the most prevalent cancer diagnosed in women worldwide. Recently, there is an increasing trend toward aggressive subtypes especially in younger women; although the main intrinsic molecular subtypes that have been identified are breast cancer hormone receptor-positive tumors, human epidermal growth factor receptor 2 (HER2)-negative luminal A and B tumors, HER2-positive tumors, and triple-negative tumors, which tend to be the most aggressive.

Because these molecular subtypes differ in disease course and clinical outcome, individualized therapies will achieve a better outcome for each patient. Interestingly, data from preclinical *in vitro* and *in vivo* studies

have identified various antitumor activities of synthetic cannabinoids and cannabis plant derivatives.

Cannabis sativa-derived cannabinoids are known to alleviate tumor-associated symptoms (nausea, anorexia and neuropathic pain) in the palliative treatment of cancer patients.

In addition, they may slow tumor progression in breast cancer patients. In fact, delta-9-tetrahydrocannabinol (THC), cannabidiol (CBD) and other cannabinoids have inhibited disease progression in breast cancer models.

The effects of cannabinoids on signaling pathways in cancer cells are conferred through the G protein-coupled CB receptors CB1 and CB2, but also through other receptors, and in a receptor-independent manner.

THC is a partial agonist of CB1 and CB2; CBD is an inverse agonist for both. In breast cancer, CB1 receptor expression is moderate, but CB2 receptor expression is high, which is related to tumor aggressiveness.

Cannabinoids block cell cycle progression and cell growth and induce cancer cell apoptosis by inhibiting constitutively active pro-oncogenic signaling pathways, such as the extracellular signal-regulated kinase pathway. They reduce angiogenesis and tumor metastasis in animal models of breast cancer. Cannabinoids are not only active against estrogen receptor positive, but also against estrogen resistant breast cancer cells.

In human epidermal growth factor receptor 2 positive and triple negative breast cancer cells, blockade of protein kinase B and cyclooxygenase-2 signaling through the CB2 receptor prevents tumor progression and metastasis. In addition, selective estrogen receptor modulators (SERMs), including tamoxifen, bind to CB receptors; this process may contribute to the growth inhibitory effect of SERMs on cancer cells lacking the estrogen receptor.

Many components of the cannabis plant, such as CBD (cannabidiol) and THC (tetrahydrocannabinol), exhibit beneficial anti-inflammatory and antitumor properties.

They act through CB1 and CB2 receptors. The latter receptor is significantly expressed in immune system cells and both receptors are abundantly present in breast cancer cells.

The expression and activity of CB receptors determine the effects of cannabinoids, but also of other drugs applied in the treatment of hormone-sensitive breast cancers as they can reduce inflammation, inhibit tumor cell growth, induce apoptosis, and cause autophagy.

In short,

Cannabinoids are already administered to breast cancer patients in advanced stages of the disease, but they could also be effective in earlier stages to slow tumor progression. Based on the ability of these molecules to inhibit inflammation and block cancer cell proliferation, synthetic and plant-derived cannabinoids have been investigated for their applications as antitumor drugs.

In fact, a growing number of reports on the role of cannabinoid receptors on tumor cells suggest that cannabinoids with different properties that can block or activate CB receptors may be useful in cancer treatment.



CANNABIS *IN* MOTHERHOOD

The use of cannabis or its derivatives during pregnancy and breastfeeding is a delicate matter; currently everything related to this issue is still under study and it is necessary to have the appropriate evidence and research to give safe and responsible use in any of these two stages. However, motherhood is something that is a continuous task; besides being something wonderful, it is implicit in this role to treasure a life, teach it to live and educate it with love so that in the future they will be adults with values and responsible in today's society; it is not an easy task, and it is challenging.

Successfully carrying out the day to day of such a role, involves being continuously surrounded by moments of happiness and joy, but also by events and stressful situations that must be handled in the best way so as not to affect the relationship with the people around them. One of the elements that can help to cope with some of the moments that involve stress management is the use of cannabis or its derivatives.

Talking about motherhood and cannabis can be a taboo, but many mothers and women heads of household report that work demands, the comprehensive care of children, home organization and all the responsibilities they have, generate an overload that leads to extreme fatigue affecting their physical and mental health and emotional balance.

By selecting the right dosage and method of administration, the properties and benefits of the plant or its derivatives such as CBD, whose anxiolytic, analgesic, anti-inflammatory and relaxing effects can significantly help to improve the quality of life of those who decide to use it, can be fully exploited. Many women today use cannabis to relieve their menstrual pain, maintain their mental health, take care of their skin and even as an aphrodisiac.

It is up to each woman to responsibly choose which cannabis product she wants to include in her daily life according to her needs and the recommendations of her specialist, to improve her quality of life and therefore the quality of life of those who share with her on a daily basis.





“Cannabis Close-up” *Blueberry Space Cake*



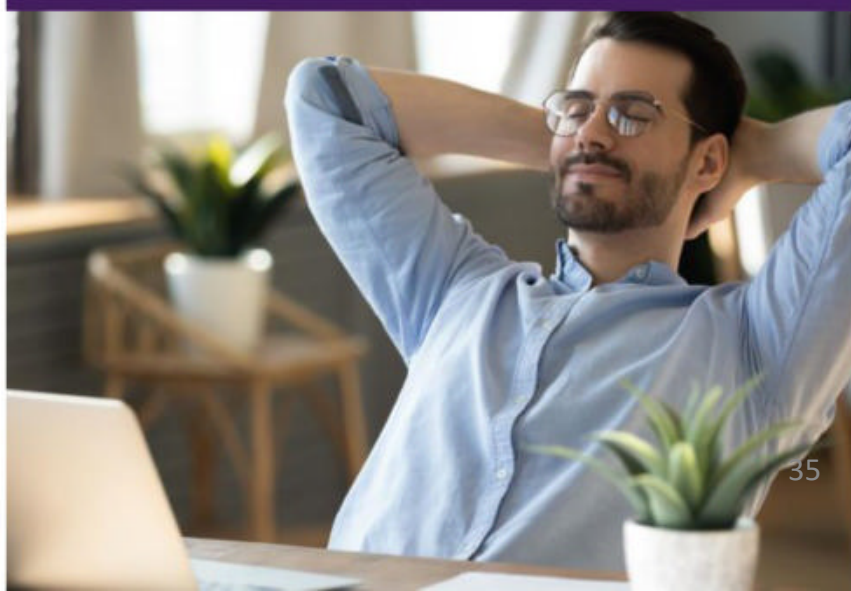
Cresco Labs, a cannabis company, genetically crossed two well-known strains, Outer Space and Alien Dutchess, to produce Blueberry Space Cake, an indica-dominant strain with low CBD levels, and an average THC concentration of 18%, according to multiple lab tests.

The lineage of this strain influenced its physical qualities: dense green buds, orange pistils and translucent white trichomes. On the other hand, myrcene, nerolidol and caryophyllene have been described as the characteristic terpenes of this strain, as well as its strong aroma and sweet fruit-like taste that is very pleasant for its users.

When deciding to use **Blueberry Space Cake** it is recommended to start with low

doses, because it initially has an unexpected psychoactive effect that progressively decreases to provide the user with various medicinal benefits such as relaxation, stress relief, decreased physical pain, and improved mood.

For medical cannabis patients it has been effective in treating pain, nerves, and anxiety, especially at the end of a long day at work, or an intense day of household chores.



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