

October 2023 Newsletter
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FDA Urges Development of Treatments For Stimulant Use Disorder

The Food and Drug Administration is encouraging drugmakers to develop treatments for stimulant use disorder, hoping to address a major gap in the addiction crisis response. Read more [here](#).

NIH Director's Blog on Alternative To Opioid Painkillers

The October NIH Director's Blog discusses the discovery of preclinical evidence of a promising alternative target for pain-relieving medicines in the brain. Read more [here](#).

FDA Warns of Dangers of Compounded Ketamine For Psychiatric Use

The Food and Drug Administration (FDA) warned consumers about risks of using compounded versions of the drug ketamine for psychiatric use. Read more [here](#).

Former DEA and ONDCP Heads Call on DEA To Not Reschedule Marijuana

Six former DEA Administrators and five former directors of the White House Office of National Drug Control Policy (ONDCP) called on President Biden and DEA Administrator Anne Milgram to reject a recommendation from the Department of Health and Human Services to reschedule marijuana. Read more [here](#).

Study Finds Telehealth Supports Retention in Treatment for Opioid Use Disorder

According to a NIDA supported study published in *JAMA Network Open*, starting buprenorphine treatment for opioid use disorder through telehealth was associated with an increased likelihood of staying in treatment longer compared to starting treatment in a non-telehealth setting. Read more [here](#).

DEA Extends Tele-Prescribing

On October 6, the Drug Enforcement Administration (DEA) announced it is extending pandemic flexibilities allowing providers to prescribe controlled substances via telemedicine through December 31, 2024. Read more [here](#).

Lawmakers Urge Cannabis Rescheduling

A bipartisan group of lawmakers sent a letter to the Drug Enforcement Administration (DEA) urging them to pursue rescheduling cannabis. Reps. Earl Blumenauer (D-OR), David Joyce (R-OH), and others say cannabis should be reclassified as a Schedule III substance. Read letter [here](#).

Senate HELP Committee Advances NIH Director Nomination

On October 25, the Senate Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions (HELP) Committee voted 15-6 to advance the nomination of Dr. Monica Bertagnolli as NIH director. Her nomination will now go before the full Senate. Read more [here](#).

Funding Opportunity: Resource Center for Cannabis and Cannabinoid Research

On October 26, the National Institutes of Health (NIH) [posted](#) a notice of funding opportunity calling for the creation of a centralized marijuana research center that's designed to help scientists overcome barriers to studying cannabis under federal prohibition. Letters of intent are due by March 16, 2024, which is also when applications will begin to be accepted. Read more [here](#).