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KINGSTON, JAMAICA



**Cannabis
Licensing
Authority**
Jamaica

Building an Industry;
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CLA Endorses First Training Session Held in Jamaica on Compounding Botanicals

The Caribbean Institute of Pharmacy Policy Practice and Research (CIPPPAR) has hosted the first training to be held in Jamaica on extemporaneous compounding of botanicals (preparing herbal preparations on demand) with emphasis on medical cannabis. The sessions were held from October 10 to November 7, 2021.

The course was held virtually and catered specifically to pharmacists, persons in the medicinal cannabis industry and those with an interest in entering the industry. Training sessions were led by six leading local and international experts and practitioners from the pharmaceutical industry.

According to the President of the Jamaica Pharmaceutical Society, Dr Winsome Christie, the participants are now “poised to advance their careers and be a part of the global revolution of cannabis for medicinal purposes.”

Speaking to the impact of the course, Interim Chief Executive Officer at the Cannabis Licensing Authority (CLA), Daenia Ashpole, said “The Cannabis Licensing Authority endorses this initiative, recognizing it as a critical step in the right direction in developing and diversifying the local medicinal cannabis industry..” She added that the Authority is “always welcoming of the input and active participation of experts in the medical field, as this is essential in maintaining the industry’s integrity and provides a launchpad for its global competitiveness..”

The course consisted of 7 units, 6 of which were academic and the other in the form of a workshop demonstrating various methods to make preparations such as creams, toothpaste, gummies and liquid tinctures. The course covered topics such as an introduction to herbal medicine, its history, and the impact of this discipline on the pharmaceutical industry, pharmacology of the cannabis plant, how it impacts the body, the dosing of the plant in different disease states, utilizing the cannabinoid principles and the legal framework within which people are permitted to practice.

Course participant and pharmacist, Rosemarie Bailey said she was particularly impressed with the format of the course, noting that, “they explored the historic and legal aspects of the medical cannabis industry before going into the chemistry and biochemistry of the cannabis plant.” Adding that even after 28 years as a pharmacist she was still able to learn new things.

Dominican participant, Stella Gidding, described the course as captivating and lauded the fact that the course, “looked at the legal aspects... not only limited to Jamaica but other Caribbean countries.”

She said the course allowed her to “actually feel and touch the plant” for the first time. “Learning about different dosages will allow me to better assist patients, especially because laws in my country surrounding cannabis were recently amended.” She added.

The course is certified by the Caribbean Institute of Pharmacy Policy Practice and Research (CIPPPAR) which operates as an entity within the University of Technology. In 2018, CIPPPAR in collaboration with the

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University of Technology (UTech) Pharmacy Alumni (UPA) also formulated a short course on medical cannabis for Jamaican pharmacists with a focus on policymakers.

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Notes to Editors:

About the Cannabis Licensing Authority: The CLA, which was created by the Dangerous Drug Act, has powers to make and enforce regulations for licences, permits and authorisations for the cultivation, processing, distribution, sale and transportation of ganja, for medical scientific and therapeutic purposes.

About Jamaica's UN Drug Treaty Obligation: Parties to the 1961 Single Convention undertake to limit the production, manufacture, export, import, distribution and stocks of, trade-in and use and possession of the controlled drugs so that they are used exclusively for medical and scientific purposes. The production and distribution of controlled substances must be licensed and supervised.

Interviews: Available on request

Images: n/a

Website: www.cla.org.jm

Social Media: Facebook: facebook.com/TheCannabisLicensingAuthority

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