

International Medical Cannabis Conference

Press release

of February 23, 2018

On April 20, Kharkiv will host the first International Medical Cannabis Conference, the official website of the event reports.

Two Ukrainian NGOs - «United experience» and the Ukrainian Association of Medical Cannabis are co-organizers of this event. Scientific and medical parts of the conference agenda will be represented by the National Pharmaceutical University (Kharkiv, Ukraine) and the University of Medical Sciences of Lithuania (Kaunas, Lithuania). The conference will open at 10 am on April 20, at the Premier Palace Hotel in Kharkiv, Ukraine. Patients, doctors and medical professionals will have free entry to the venue.

«This is the first high-level event in Ukraine in this field and our goal is to unite fields of scientific research, public policy, finance, medicine, technological innovation, agriculture, and entrepreneurship, and bring the discussion of medical cannabis on to the new level of expertise», - organizers state.

The following international speakers will make their presentations during the conference: Jokubas Ziburkus (University of Houston, USA), Ludas Ivanauskas (Professor of the Lithuanian University of Health Sciences), Marek Bachansky (Polish pediatrician and neurologist). Ukraine will be represented by Igor Linsky, Director of the Institute of Neurology, Psychiatry and Narcology of the National Academy of Medical Sciences of Ukraine, Victoria Kislichenko, MD, Professor, Doctor of Pharmaceutical Sciences, and Dmytro Isaev, Ph.D., neurophysiologist.

Gennady Shabas, lawyer and one of the conference organizers stated: «We are placing a key emphasis on the therapeutic properties of cannabis. We aim to demonstrate all the great opportunities that are opening for Ukraine by introducing international experience into domestic medicine and setting appropriate legislative regulation».

Medical use of cannabis components has now become a global practice, owing to the results of research conducted during the last 30 years. Findings have shown high therapeutic potential of cannabis plants. Cannabis medications are proved to be effective in treatment of such serious diseases as epilepsy, multiple sclerosis, Alzheimer's and Parkinson's diseases. Therapeutic effects of cannabinoids are often more efficient than some of potent drugs and have fewer negative side effects on human health, scientists say. Also, there is data on successful cannabis treatment of myocardial infarction, hypertension and an imposing list of oncological diseases.

The medical use of cannabis active components has now been confirmed by more than 12,000 scientific studies of plant-derived cannabinoids.

«Today, there are about 30 000 children suffering from epilepsy in Ukraine, and one in ten of elderly people is suffering from Alzheimer’s disease», says Dmytro Isaev, leading researcher at the Bogomoletz Institute of Physiology of the NAS of Ukraine. According to Dmytro Isaev, about 40% of people suffering from epilepsy are unresponsive to most modern potent drugs, and a simple calculation shows that this figure can be reduced by half. «That is, instead of 30-40%, we could have 15-20%. By simply regulating the use of cannabis for medical purposes, we could help millions of people», - the scientist summed up.

As it was earlier reported, last year Ukrainian scientists appealed to the Cabinet of Ministers of Ukraine with an open letter demanding to regulate scientific research on the therapeutic effects of cannabis and its active ingredients. To date, more than 40 Ukrainian scientists have signed this open letter.

NGO “United experience”

<https://www.facebook.com/UnitedExperienceUkraine/>

NGO “Ukrainian Association of Medical Cannabis”

<https://www.facebook.com/uamcan/>

Official website:

<http://umca.org.ua/>

Event on facebook:

<https://www.facebook.com/events/328437664344829/>

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