

Meeting Minutes

HB 21-1317 Seventh Meeting of the Scientific Review Council

June 21, 2022; 10:00 am – 12: 00 pm MT

General Remarks and Welcome

- Dr. Chris Urbina, Chair of the Scientific Review Council (SRC), called to order the seventh meeting of the SRC on June 21, 2022, at 10:10 am MT.

Scientific Review Council Introductions and Update on Conflicts of Interest

- The Chair conducted a roll call for both the Council and the Colorado School of Public Health project team members.
- The following Council members were present and introduced:
 - Chris Urbina
 - Greg Kinney
 - Joseph Schacht
 - Lesley Brooks
 - Kennon Heard
 - Paula Riggs
 - Kent Hutchison
- The following Council members were absent:
 - Erica Wymore, with advanced notice and apologies
 - Archana Shrestha, with advanced notice and apologies
 - David Brumbaugh, with advanced notice and apologies
 - Susan Calcaterra, with advanced notice and apologies
- The following SPH team members were present and introduced:
 - Jonathan Samet
 - Greg Tung
 - Tianjing Li
 - Rosa Lawrence
 - Neeloo Soleimanpour
 - Louis Leslie
 - Thaistsara Rittiphairoj
 - Lisa Bero
 - Jean-Pierre Oberste
 - Meghan Buran
 - Bobbi Ortega
 - Christi Piper
- The following SPH team members were absent:
 - Ashley Brooks-Russell, with advanced notice and apologies
 - Ali Maffey, with advanced notice and apologies
 - Sam Wang, with advanced notice and apologies
- Changes to COI forms for any Council members
 - None

- No questions for Chair Chris Urbina.

Review of Agenda, Meeting Minutes, and Response to SRC Recommendations

- Chair Chris Urbina reminded everyone in attendance that meeting minutes and the response to SRC recommendations are available on the project website under the resources tab.
- Review of agenda with Council
 - Agenda shown on screen for the panelists (Council and Colorado SPH) as well as public attendees.

No questions for Chair Chris Urbina.

Progress Update from the Cannabis Research & Policy Project

- Dr. Tianjing Li presented on the progress to date of the scoping review.
- Dr. Tianjing Li discussed the progress of the data extraction process where the initial literature search resulted in 46,000 titles and abstracts reduced through screening to 489 observational studies and randomized control trials in addition to 264 systematic review case reports/case series for data extraction. Currently, we have finished extraction of the study characteristics from 127 of 293 articles collected by our student workers assisting with the study. 70 articles have been verified by one of the methodologists on the team, primarily looking for concentrations in association with health outcomes. A full verification for all 489 studies will occur with regard to the exposure, outcomes, and associations. We still have about 300 articles that have not been extracted. About an hour is needed on average to extract information, and the median is 20 minutes. Consequently, we anticipate needing about 3 more weeks for extraction to be completed and another 1-2 weeks for the data to be verified by a methodologist and produce tables and recommendations. Therefore, we are about 40% completed with initial extraction and need 5 weeks total to complete the data extraction process.

Questions and Answers

- Chair Chris Urbina asked if as soon as study data are verified, will they be added onto the dashboard immediately
- Dr. Tianjing Li commented that she hopes so.
- Rosa Lawrence stated that she is working on adding them to the dashboard soon after verification is completed.
- Chair Chris Urbina asked if anyone is having access issues to the dashboard to reach out to Rosa Lawrence.

No further questions for Dr. Tianjing Li.

SRC Discussion of General Plans and Overview of the Draft Report

- Dr. Jonathan Samet provided a review of the Draft Report for the Legislature developed by the Cannabis Research and Policy Team. Reviewed the relatively finished sections.

- Dr. Jonathan Samet commented that we reached out to the Legislature to see if we could submit our report later than July 1 when data extraction is completed but were asked to submit the report on July 1st with notification that completed version will be submitted subsequently.
- Dr. Jonathan Samet added that we have shown the introduction to this group multiple times and we plan to add an executive summary. We will have an update on the data extraction and highlight what the current literature shows. In the future report we will include greater detail on the data extraction and general recommendations.
- Dr. Jonathan Samet requested feedback on the following: next steps, future research agenda, preliminary recommendations, and reviewing concentration phrasing throughout the report.
- Dr. Jonathan Samet commented that we will use concentration throughout the report rather than potency, aside where potency is used specifically, as in the legislation. In the text we will make reference to the fact that this decision was discussed with the SRC and received full support. Dr. Jonathan Samet asked if the SRC has any comments.

Questions and Answers

- Chair Chris Urbina commented that this was the consensus of the SRC group, and it was helpful for the follow up on this matter. No additional questions from the SRC.

No further questions for Dr. Jonathan Samet.

- Dr. Jonathan Samet pointed out a paragraph in the report about data extraction on exposures and outcomes. He highlighted the additional time for completion that Dr. Tianjing Li mentioned and the additional work that needs to be done.
- Dr. Tianjing Li stated that after we clean and consider the data in depth, we must dive deeper into the quality of information we find and the applicability of the information for the recommendations and policy guidance we desire to produce. We will need input from SRC on these topics.
- Dr. Lisa Bero agrees with Dr. Tianjing Li and advises following the evidence map. If the SRC has questions they want answered, they should be posed to the team, and we can adjust the dashboard to make certain that they can be addressed.
- Chair Chris Urbina summarized that the Cannabis Research and Policy team cannot make conclusions and recommendations yet.
 - Dr. Lisa Bero agreed and mentioned that we are identifying any errors in the evidence we have available prior to making recommendations.
 - Dr. Jonathan Samet commented that we need to identify what is the applicability of our study evidence. At this point we must complete data extraction and Rosa is building the dashboard for exploration capabilities.

No further questions for Dr. Jonathan Samet.

- Dr. Jonathan Samet commented that the next steps involve acknowledging what literature is available to the public and how we (Cannabis Research and Policy Team) hope to find additional studies that allow for appropriate recommendations to be made and need to continue pulling the data.

No further questions for Dr. Jonathan Samet.

- Dr. Jonathan Samet highlighted the deficiencies of the studies available and commented that four available reports have come to similar broad conclusions on problems with the literature. This is an emerging field of research that is constrained by funding and research on marijuana use has been limited by necessity of using cannabis from the University of Mississippi for NIH-funded research. There are methodological issues that should be addressed. Dr. Jonathan Samet encourages holding a workshop involving relevant societies to address bringing some standardization to cannabis research. There is a need to be proactive in generating informative evidence.
 - Dr. Tianjing Li commented that she was on a committee where they developed a report on planning for future research. She highlighted the need to take into consideration health inequalities and SDOH.
 - Report Citation provided by Dr. Tianjing Li: Wojtowicz A, Stratton K, Lieu TA; Committee on Addressing Evidence Gaps in Clinical Prevention Recommendations; Board on Population Health and Public Health Practice; Health and Medicine Division; National Academies of Sciences, Engineering, and Medicine. Closing Evidence Gaps in Clinical Prevention. Washington (DC): National Academies Press (US); 2021. PMID: 34982519.
 - Dr. Jonathan Samet mentioned that he was also on a NASEM committee that developed a national agenda on research on airborne particulate matter. The EPA followed it, leading to a reduction of uncertainties. Dr. Lisa Bero said that a recent call for a cannabis research registry from NIDA overlap on standardizing and reporting. It may be useful to reach out to NIDA. She provided the following link: <https://grants.nih.gov/grants/guide/rfa-files/RFA-DA-23-011.html>
 - Chair Chris Urbina stated that the public wants answers on therapeutic and adverse effects of high concentration THC, and it is difficult to wait. We want at least a qualitative discussion explaining the limitations of the evidence available.
 - Dr. Jonathan Samet acknowledged the public's hopes but said that we will have to finish the data extraction before making more specific recommendations based on our findings.
 - Dr. Lisa Bero mentioned remarks from the presentation she attended this weekend at the American College of Preventive Medicine.
 - Chair Chris Urbina commented that it would be useful for the SRC to make their recommendations after reviewing the report from the Cannabis Research and Policy Team.
 - Dr. Jonathan Samet emphasized that the SRC does not have a definitive due date for their recommendations to be submitted.
 - Dr. Paula Riggs pointed out that she was comfortable with submitting a report after the Cannabis Research and Policy Team submit their report.
 - Chair Chris Urbina summarized that the recommendations made will be broad from the Cannabis Research and Policy team.
 - Dr. Jonathan Samet and Dr. Lisa Bero agreed.
 - Dr. Greg Kinney wants to recommend reevaluating the testing guidelines.
 - Chair Chris Urbina mentioned that the SRC can include that in their report of recommendations and guidance.

- Dr. Lesley Brooks mentioned that it would be interesting to understand and evaluate the data set on dosage recommendations.
 - Dr. Lisa Bero said if there are available studies to capture that data, we will include it in the report.
- Dr. Greg Kinney asked if there are any polymorphism and comments regarding genetics from metabolism in any papers, he provided a link where he found recommendations for drug/CYP interactions but nothing regarding THC.
 - Provided the following link: <https://cpicpgx.org/genes-drugs/>
- Dr. Lisa Bero mentioned that she has not seen any studies on that, but we are not extracting from the discussion section and still have some data extraction progress to make.
- Dr. Jonathan Samet acknowledged the comment and responded that we might know more when we complete the evidence map.
- No further comments from the Cannabis research and policy team. No further comments from the SRC

SRC Plans and Approach

- Chair Chris Urbina mentioned that the draft report from Jon's team will be sent out to the SRC group for review and evaluation.
- Chair Chris Urbina encouraged the group to interact with the dashboard and send comments to Jon, Chris, and Neeloo. SRC members unable to participate in the next meeting should send comments to Drs. Samet and Urbina and also to Neeloo. The comments will be distributed as received.
- Chair Chris Urbina is working on building the letter for SRC to send off and will provide updates shortly.
- Meeting adjourned at 10:55 am

Next Meeting Timing and Closing Remarks

- June 29th meeting is scheduled
- No final questions or comments
- Technical issue with recording the meeting, please refer to the meeting minutes.